

Israeli police chief planning to resign

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's police chief on Saturday handed in a resignation letter following a supreme court ruling to investigate accusations that he accepted personal favors. "Today I handed the police minister a letter in which I asked to be released from my duty as police commissioner of the Israeli police force," said Inspector General Rafi Peled. The resignation comes at a sensitive time for Israel which is facing a spate of Palestinian reprisal attacks for the Hebron mosque massacre. Police and the army are under scrutiny by an official commission investigating how a Jewish gunman entered the holy site on Feb. 25 where he killed more than 30 Palestinian worshippers. Mr. Peled's resignation stems from a supreme court ruling on Thursday that said there were grounds to examine reported improprieties such as accepting discounts and other perks from private companies while in office. Mr. Peled said that the court ruling would lead to an extensive period of hearings and investigations widely covered by the press. "Israel is standing before a difficult period on many fronts and the Israeli police is the front line," Mr. Peled said.

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Jordan, Egypt to discuss cooperation

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf said Saturday the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee will meet in the last third of April to discuss means of enhancing economic cooperation between Jordan and Egypt. Dr. Khalaf, who is currently visiting Cairo to open the Jordanian pavilion at the Cairo International Fair, said the committee will also discuss Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in industrial and investment fields in addition to holding an assessment of the two countries' joint ventures.

3 guerrillas killed by Israeli fire

MARIYOUN (AP) — Israeli forces blasted infiltrating guerrillas with tank fire Saturday in Israeli-occupied South Lebanon, killing three of them, security sources said. The sources said the guerrillas were killed when Israeli troops spotted them trying to sneak into a route leading to their hilltop position of Nabi Al Taher in the early afternoon. Nabi Al Taher is five kilometers inside the central sector of an area Israel occupies as a "security zone."

Plans finalised for Hebron observers

ROME (R) — A working party of officials from Italy, Denmark and Norway has finalised plans to send an observer force to monitor security in the troubled West Bank town of Hebron, the Italian foreign ministry said Saturday. The European nations will send a 160-strong force to Hebron which will operate there for three months, the statement said. Under the terms of their mandate, the observers will monitor security and the commitment of the two sides to ensure a return to normal conditions for the Palestinian population. The observers will be allowed to carry pistols for self-defence in Hebron.

Klestil in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Austrian President Thomas Klestil arrived Saturday for talks on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations. President Hafez Al Assad greeted his guest at Damascus airport and the two drove straight to the presidential palace for a first round of talks. Austrian embassy officials said Mr. Klestil will visit Quneitra on the Golan on Sunday to inspect some 500 Austrian soldiers serving with a U.N. peacekeeping force. In an interview with Syrian television ahead of his visit, Mr. Klestil said Friday he would like to see progress in efforts to find a settlement to the Syrian-Israeli conflict.

Kuwaiti ministers quit before reshuffle

KUWAIT (AP) — Ministers of Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah's cabinet tendered their resignations Saturday in response to his recent announcement of an impending reshuffle. The state-run Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Abdul Aziz Al Dakheel, as saying the 15 ministers made the decision in order to facilitate the reshuffle for Sheikh Saad, who is prime minister and crown prince. KUNA did not say if Sheikh Saad accepted the resignations, but said the officials wished him success in all his efforts.

2 killed in Algeria

TUNIS (R) — Two gunmen shot a 24-year-old Algerian in the head while she sat in a bus in a suburb of Algiers, Al Watan newspaper reported on Saturday. In a separate attack, a member of a legal Islamic Party, Hamas, was shot and killed by unknown gunmen on Thursday, security forces said. Algeria's official APF news agency identified the man killed in Thursday's attack as Omar Khennouche, 43.

Israel rejects PLO call for immediate final status talks

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL REJECTED on Saturday a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) demand to scrap talks on limited self-rule and begin negotiating the permanent status of the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank. "To think... we have to rush into a discussion of a permanent solution, I believe that right now it would be considered as we yield to terrorists, to terrorism," Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur told Israel Radio's English-language news.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said in Tunis on Saturday the current talks with Israel on limited Palestinian self-rule were "dying" and talks on permanent status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip should begin immediately. "The (peace) deal is dying and the diplomatic process is reaching a total impasse," Mr. Abed-Rabbo told Reuters.

He said negotiations with Israel on limited self-rule cannot be concluded because of Israeli demands. The PLO would prefer to negotiate immediately the final status of all of the occupied territories, he said. "There must be a different formula based on negotiating immediately and directly a definitive solution," he said.

Mr. Gur said Israel's decision to close off the occupied territories should not be misconstrued as a move towards negotiations on a Palestinian state.

"Any closure is very difficult both for the Palestinians and for the Israeli economy and it cannot last for a long time because... it's as if we decided about the permanent border which is not the case," Mr. Gur said.

Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip and West Bank on Thursday after two Palestinian guerrilla attacks which killed eight Israelis. The attacks were in retribution for the Hebron mosque massacre by a Jewish settler of more than 30 Palestinians in February.

Israel says it expects to resume talks with the PLO on limited Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho on Sunday in Cairo.

Mr. Abed-Rabbo said the sealing off the territories jeopardised prospects for reaching agreement in Cairo. "Even if the talks resume tomorrow (Sunday), there will not be results before April 13, nor the month's end as Peres said," he added.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has said he expects an agreement on Gaza-Jericho by the end of April.

"There is no chance to realise progress and it appears that this is the true decision of (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin and the majority of his cabinet, and what the (Israeli) cabinet decided yesterday on the economic closure is an additional evidence of Rabin's intentions," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said the latest Israeli proposals in Cairo on security arrangements were unacceptable.

"These Israeli proposals have shown that Israel does not want a true withdrawal and wants, a Palestinian police under Israel's domination and which implements its decisions to provide security within the limits working for Israel's interests only," he said.

He also said that Israel does not plan a true withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

"They want a 13-kilometre-long band along Gaza's coast to annex them to (Jewish) settlements. What will remain from Gaza's Strip area?" Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

"Negotiations are turning within an empty circle... they are getting to be a true comedy."

"They (the Israelis) are using continuation of talks to take security and economic measures like closing the centre of Hebron, isolating (East) Jerusalem from the other occupied territories and now imposing an economic blockade to transform Palestinians' lives into a true hell," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

"Only people who are ignorant can imagine after all that Israel wants to implement the peace deal," he added.

A senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat also attacked Israel for sealing off the occupied territories, saying the move would harm the livelihood of thousands of Palestinians.

Ahmad Tibi, Mr. Arafat's Israeli Arab adviser, was asked by Israeli army radio if the indefinite closure of the territories was acceptable.

(Continued on page 5)



JACKSON IN JERUSALEM: U.S. civil rights leader Jesse Jackson (left) shakes hands with Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini as he walks with Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem on Saturday. Mr. Jackson is a guest of Palestinian leaders for a private visit to the occupied territories and Israel (see page 10) (AFP photo)

No ceasefire in Kigali; foreigners flee violence

MULINDI, Rwanda (AP) — Convoys of foreigners left the capital of Kigali on Saturday as rebels launched new attacks against Rwandan troops in ethnic fighting that has killed hundreds.

Belgium, France and the United States sent troops into the area Saturday to assist with the evacuation, and Belgium dispatched five transport planes in the possible removal of more than 2,000 Belgian, French and U.S. nationals.

The new fighting came less than 24 hours after the United Nations announced security forces in Rwanda had named an interim government and agreed to a ceasefire with the rebels in a bid to restore order to Kigali.

But a rebel leader said they were never consulted about a ceasefire. "We are not aware of any such deal, so this is a continuation of the war," said Vice-Chairman Patrick Mazimhaka of the Rwandan Patriotic Front in rebel-held Mulindi.

The presidents of Rwanda

and Burundi — both ethnic Hutu — were killed Wednesday when their plane was reportedly shot down over the Kigali airport.

Their deaths ignited savage fighting in which the mostly Hutu presidential guard reportedly killed the acting prime minister and kidnapped three cabinet ministers. Unconfirmed reports said the ministers had been killed.

The ruling Hutus and the minority Tutsis have fought for decades in Rwanda and Burundi. Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundi President Cyprien Ntaryamira were returning from a peace conference in Tanzania aimed at ending the ethnic strife when their plane crashed.

France sent the first of 400 paratroops into Kigali airport on Saturday to prepare for the evacuation.

The United States followed with the vanguard of 330 marines, which arrived in Bujumbura, the capital of neighboring Burundi.

Belgium then dispatched the

first of 800 paratroops into the area.

There are about 1,500 Belgians, 600 French and 255 Americans in the former Belgian trust territory, military officials said.

Any evacuation was to be coordinated between the forces in the European and U.S. forces, diplomats said.

The U.S. embassy in Kigali said a convoy of 30 vehicles took foreigners out of the capital on Saturday, Belgian radio reported. Two other convoys were being organised, according to the broadcast monitored by the BBC.

It was not known how many people were involved or their nationalities.

U.S. military spokesman Colonel Larry Icenogle confirmed from Washington that Americans were among those being evacuated in the convoys. He said he believed they had French military escorts.

He did not know how many people were being evacuated

(Continued on page 5)

King meets Capucci

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Saturday receives Bishop Hilarión Capucci, spiritual head of the 3,000-strong Melchite-rite Catholic community of Jerusalem. The King discussed with Bishop Capucci the situation of holy shrines in Jerusalem.

Earlier Saturday, Bishop Capucci rejected Israel's claim to Jerusalem as its "capital" and called for placing the Holy City under the joint control of its three principal religions (See page 3).

Bishop Capucci said the international community should end Israel's occupation of Jerusalem.



Israeli troops kill Palestinian at Gaza crossing

Occupied Jerusalem (Agencies) — Soldiers at a roadblock fatally shot a Palestinian youth on Saturday in the Gaza Strip after he threatened them with an axe, the army said.

The violence occurred on Saturday afternoon at the Erez checkpoint or crossing between Gaza and Israel.

A military official said that a Palestinian youth tried to attack soldiers with an axe. "He didn't succeed. They called out to him to stop, and he continued threatening them, and they shot and killed him," the official added.

No other details were immediately available.

Gaza and the occupied West Bank have been under tightened closure orders since Thursday after a car bombing and shooting attack in which eight Israelis were killed. The closure prevents about 60,000 Palestinians from reporting to jobs in Israel.

The security cabinet decided Friday to keep the restrictions in force until at least next Friday, or after Israeli "independence day."

It also recommended the import of nearly 20,000 construction and farm workers from overseas to take up the slack in missing labour at Israeli building sites and farms.

Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tsur said the Israeli cabinet would discuss how many foreign workers to import at its weekly meeting on Sunday.

"The most important thing is organising for a longer term of closure... recognising that the main goal is to return the sense of security to residents of Israel and to create a situation in which workers from the territories will not enter," Mr. Tsur told army radio on Saturday.

The Israeli contractors association called for 30,000 foreign labourers and estimated an additional 40,000 Israelis could be recruited.

The full cabinet was to debate keeping the measure in force indefinitely, when it meets on Sunday.

The closure has also hurt Palestinian medical services in Jerusalem, the Palestine Council of Health said in a statement Saturday. The group is slated to run health affairs for Palestinians once the autonomy called for in the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement takes effect.

Hossam Sharkawi, a council planner, said that 20 doctors were barred from reaching the Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives on Saturday morning. He said some doctors from nearby Makassed hospital made it past roadblocks in the afternoon after a five-hour wait.

In Gaza, a health council spokesman, Dr. Riyadh Zannoun, said 16 Palestinians suffering from cancer and other illnesses were turned back at roadblocks since Friday.

RJ to get capital boost, partial debt rescheduling

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, has secured a much-needed boost with a government decision to raise its capital and reschedule part of its domestic debts, informed sources said Saturday.

The sources said the decision, taken by the Cabinet last week, involves a capital infusion of about JD 35 million (\$50 million) to the airline and the rescheduling of about JD 100 million in the airline's debts to local banks and the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Corporation (JPRC).

The move comes after several years of government refusal to pump money to help the carrier, which is burdened with external and internal debts of JD 579 million against assets worth JD 534 million. The bulk of the debts were incurred during the early 1980s when RJ launched an ambitious expansion scheme.

About one-third of the debts are domestic. Foreign obligations of the airline include outstanding payments of the aircraft carrier leased in the late 80s.

The raising of the airline's capital comes in line with a two-year-old formal finding by international consultants that RJ's capital of JD 22 million (\$32 million) was incompatible

with the size of the national carrier.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the JD 35 million capital infusion is expected to come in the form of the government setting part of the airline's foreign debts for an equivalent amount in dollars and defining the spending as capital investment of the airline.

Sa'd Al Tal, director-general of the refinery company, would only say that the company was informed that there was a government decision to reschedule part of the airline's domestic debts.

"We were told that the government had taken such a decision," Mr. Tal told the Jordan Times. "We were not given any specific figures."

According to Mr. Tal, the airline owes the refinery company JD 74 million. Other local creditors of the airline include a local consortium of commercial banks, accounting for JD 112 million of RJ's debts, and the semi-government Social Security Corporation (SSC), which is owed JD 16 million.

"We have to sit down and negotiate" the rescheduling, Mr. Tal said.

No further details or comment by the consortium of local banks were immediately available.

Shortly after he took office

in May last year, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali promised that the government would spare no effort to help the national carrier, which is making an operational profit only to find it wiped away by debt servicing.

According to official figures, the airline lost JD 134 million since its establishment in 1963. The bulk of the loss was incurred as a result of the devaluation of the dinar in 1988/89 and the Gulf crisis of 1990/91.

Transport Minister Adee Halasa told Parliament in March that financial considerations should not be the only factor that determine how the government approaches the debt problem faced by the airline.

The capital increase is expected to help boost the financial manoeuvrability of the airline, which has a cash-flow problem, while the expected debt rescheduling will help reduce the pressure on its budget.

The government move comes ahead of privatising the airline, a process which is expected to take several years.

The sources said a study conducted by an international consultant on the best mechanism to privatise the airline was nearing completion.

The study, conducted by

(Continued on page 5)

Fresh mediation effort gets under way in Yemen

SANAA (Agencies) — Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki met with Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh in a bid to solve Yemen's deepening crisis, political sources said.

The two leaders held a closed session shortly after Mr. Afewerki's arrival and discussed "the development of efforts exerted to solve the crisis and the implementation of a reconciliation accord," one source said.

The accord, providing for political, economic, military and administrative reforms was signed by Mr. Saleh and his estranged deputy Ali Salem Al Beidh in Amman in February, but differences have prevented putting it into effect.

Mr. Afewerki, who has good ties with both Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh, was among the first foreign mediators to try to defuse the crisis when it came into the open in August.

He met with Mr. Beidh last week when both men were on a visit to the United Arab Emirates.

In Cairo, Egyptian officials said Information Minister Safwat Sharif and UAE Foreign Affairs Minister Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi left for Sanaa to meet President Saleh before going to Aden to see Mr. Beidh.

Mr. Saleh merged his conservative North Yemen with Mr. Beidh's former Marxist South Yemen in 1990 in a 50-50 power sharing accord but

differences emerged last year when the Islamist Islah Party was brought into the coalition government.

Mr. Saleh told a radio interview on Friday that meetings last week in Salalah, Oman, with Mr. Beidh were "positive at the personal level, but it was not positive as far as the crisis is concerned."

Sources of Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) expressed similar views.

Egypt's Middle East News agency reported that Mr. Sherif and Mr. Nuaimi would meet President Saleh in Sanaa. They planned to get together with Mr. Beidh in Aden on Sunday, the agency said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and leaders of other Arab countries — mainly Jordan, Oman, the UAE, and Syria — have been trying to settle disputes imperiling the Yemeni unity proclaimed in 1990.

Mr. Sherif told the news agency that Mr. Nuaimi gave Mr. Mubarak a letter from UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan on Saturday about their efforts to solve the Yemeni crisis. The leaders agreed to send the envoys to mediate. Mr. Sherif said.

Tension mounted Thursday as warplanes of southern Yemen's air force streaked across northern skies in response to a nighttime drive-by attack by unidentified gunmen on sol-

diers of a southern brigade deployed in the north.

A southern Yemen delegation is touring Arab countries to explain Mr. Beidh's point of view, and both sides are reported seeking Arab intervention to keep the armies apart.

Reports said Arab military observers might be sent in to assure that all disputes would be solved through dialogue peacefully.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani on Saturday called for stronger relations with Yemen, the Islamic Republic News agency reported.

Speaking after meeting in Tehran with visiting Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Saleh Bassindawh, Mr. Rafsanjani also expressed his country's willingness to help preserve the unity of North and South Yemen, the agency said.

Mr. Bassindawh is a northerner from President Ali Saleh's conservative General People's Congress.

The Iranian agency, monitored in Cyprus, said Mr. Rafsanjani called for a strengthening of Yemeni-Iranian relations to safeguard the security and stability of the region.

During the eight-year Iran-Iraq war and the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, Yemen was one of Iraq's staunchest supporters but this has not prevented it from maintaining reasonable relations with Tehran in recent years.



IN THE EDUCATION ARENA: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday receives Yemeni Education Minister Abu Bakr Qurba (right) to discuss cooperation in the education arena. Dr. Majali said Jordan was ready to provide Yemen with expertise in education and higher education "in embodiment of the Kingdom's policy of maintaining strong relations with the Arab countries." He added that Jordan's ministries of education and higher education as well as state universities would be willing to offer training to Yemeni personnel and respond favourably to any request in this respect. Dr. Qurba conveyed a message to Dr. Majali from the Yemeni prime minister concerning cooperation in education and also

briefed the prime minister on the current situation in Yemen. He also voiced Yemen's praise for Jordan's endeavours to bring about reconciliation among the various Yemeni parties and expressed hope that His Majesty King Hussein would pursue his efforts to bring about a lasting settlement. Education Minister Khaled Omari was present at the meeting. Dr. Qurba, who arrived in Amman Friday evening on a three-day visit to Jordan, met separately later with Dr. Omari and other officials to review scopes of cultural and educational cooperation between Yemen and Jordan. Ministry of Education officials said that Dr. Qurba would be accompanied on a tour of several Jordanian educational institutions.

Economic imbalances can be dealt with through stock markets, says Gammoh

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, like several Arab states, is currently implementing an economic restructuring programme agreed to with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to adjust the imbalances in its economy and pursue its development process, said Finance Minister Sami Gammoh Saturday.

Addressing the opening session of a three-day meeting on means of stimulating the work of Arab stock markets, the minister said that the imbalances in the Jordanian economy, which were caused by large investments in the country's infrastructure during the 1950s and 1960s can be dealt with through the help of stock markets and commercial banks which handle savings and investments.

In many countries government resources have been depleted by rising external debts, said the minister, adding that it is often the private sector which is called upon to fund major development schemes. As for Jordan, the country bore heavy burdens in defence spending following the 1948 war with Israel and incurred high development costs in the last four decades resulting in the economic crisis of the late 1980s, continued Mr. Gammoh.

He said Jordan still faces the consequences of the Gulf war and the ongoing siege on its sole port at Aqaba, which, he said, has cost the country hundreds of millions of dollars.

Despite the difficulties, the country is pursuing economic reforms and is building democratic institutions, Mr. Gammoh said.

He explained that the Amman Financial Market (AFM), which was founded in 1978, was created in order to attract savings that would be utilised in development schemes, and the government, he added, is eager to further this market to enable it to play a more significant role in the national economy.

The minister called for a greater measure of cooperation between the Arab stock markets as part of a collective Arab effort to improve the Arab World's economy.

Mr. Gammoh deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in opening the conference, which was organised by the Arab League in cooperation with the Arab Banking Union and the Amman Financial Market.

Arab Stock Markets Union Chairman Fawzi Bahrazad addressed the opening session, urging Arab states to implement measures for genuine in-



Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh (Center), flanked by officials of various Arab stock markets, attends the opening session

of a meeting to boost the work of Arab financial markets (Petra photo)

tegration among their economies, with the help of banking institutions and stock markets.

Referring to the work of the existing stock markets in the Arab World, Dr. Bahrazad said that despite many positive aspects, these markets still face negative elements that impede

their operations, such as failure to involve the private sector on a larger scale in economic development, absence of cooperation among stock markets and the trend of establishing small enterprises instead of founding major public share-holding companies.

According to Khaled Amin Abdullah, the conference rapporteur, the delegates will exchange views on promoting stock market work, review working papers dealing with Arab states experiments in stock markets will reflect on Arab economic programmes.

Archbishop of Jerusalem refuses to return from exile

By Natasha Bokhari

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The exiled archbishop of Jerusalem, Hilarion Capucci, Saturday said he will not go back to the occupied territories until Jerusalem becomes the Palestinian state's capital.

"I was and still am the archbishop of Jerusalem, and it is my duty to ensure a just and lasting peace for my people," said the archbishop during a press conference held at the Greek archbishopric in Amman.

Archbishop Capucci was deported by the Israeli authorities in September 1977 for

smuggling arms from Jordan into the occupied territories for members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and has lived in Italy for the last twenty years.

The head of the Jerusalem diocese said that the Holy City is an Arab city, and that for peace to be established, it has to be returned to its original owners.

He told reporters that after it is returned to its legitimate owners, Jerusalem will no longer be "monopolised" as it is now. "Jerusalem will then become the city that will allow Muslims, Christians and Jews to live together as brothers."

The holy man described himself as the first nationalist and said that he had turned down an offer to return to the occupied territories because it was tied to him not expressing his opinion about the Palestinian cause. He declined, however, to say when the offer was made, and by whom it was made.

"(U.N. Security Council Resolution) 904 has to be implemented, and PLO President Yasser Arafat has to condemn the Israeli stand concerning settlements which are cancerous bodies that need to be removed," said the archbishop who expressed his disapproval

of the PLO's single-handed approach in being the sole decision-makers in the peace talks. "One hand cannot clap," he added.

According to the head of the diocese, a comprehensive and durable peace can only be achieved when Palestinians attain their own passports and currency and their right to self-determination. He added that settling for anything less than that would be "treason."

"We have offered Israelis Gaza and Jericho as a gift which they are more than glad to get rid of," pointing to the heightened violence in those areas, where, he said, their

Jewish occupants would be pleased to escape from.

The archbishop said his visit to Jordan was prompted by "some sickness" since he considered Jordan to be another home of his, and that it is the closest he could get to Palestine. He also commended His Majesty King Hussein's "admirable" support to the Palestinians, saying that the King is a true symbol of "courage."

The archbishop, who arrived in Jordan Thursday, met with King Hussein later to discuss the situation in the occupied territories, particularly Jerusalem.

Two youths drown in Ghor Safi ranch

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two youths, aged 17 and 20, drowned Thursday evening in the Mashara area of Ghor Safi, according to Public Security Department (PSD) and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

Abdul Salam Ma'aytah (17) and his friend, Nidal Suleiman (20), drowned in the swimming pool of a relative's ranch in Ghor Safi.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times that "it seems that one of the victims fell in the pool, and when the other tried to save him he drowned too."

The ranch owner told police he had been with the two young men but he had to leave for one hour. When he returned, he said, he discovered their bodies floating in the pool.

He told police that the youths did not know how to

swim. On Friday, a 24-year-old man drowned in Wadi Araba Dam, CDD reports showed. Abdul Majid Mahmoud was with his friend on a picnic, when he accidentally fell in the dam.

The victim was rushed to Mou'az Hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

Four more people were reported to have died in drowning accidents since the beginning of April.

The earlier incidents included the deaths of two 3-year-old children in Irbid, who died in separate accidents.

In both cases, police reports said, the children were playing in their yards and fell in an open well.

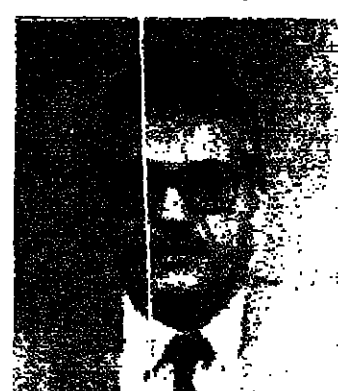
A PSD official urged citizens who have wells in their yards to make sure that they are firmly sealed when not in use, to prevent children from being hurt or killed.

Ministry to propose law, amendments addressing children's, family issues

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development plans to propose a draft law on children's issues and amendments to existing laws and regulations related to the family, according to Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sgour.

The proposed laws and amendments are considered necessary to address the numerous social and economic changes in the society and are needed to protect children's rights, Dr. Sgour said in a statement Saturday on the eve of a ceremony planned in observance of the International Year of the Family.

The ceremony, to be organised at the Royal Cultural Centre under the patronage of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, is aimed at honouring



Mohammad Sgour

institutions that help families implement income-generating projects, he said.

The ceremony is a recognition of these institutions' efforts in promoting and

deepening the status and role of families in society, as well as an attempt to draw attention to the need for further work on upgrading the status of the Jordanian family and related issues, said the minister.

The Ministry of Social Development recently organised an exhibition displaying the products of limited income families which had received training by private and public institutions. The families were provided with funds to start their business and become self-reliant, said the minister.

He said Jordan is observing the International Year of the Family in line with a call by the United Nations General Assembly in order to underline the role of families and the importance of safeguarding their rights.

VTC trains Lebanese, Sudanese instructors

AMMAN (Petra) — Since its establishment in 1977 the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has provided training to 87,000 people in Jordan through its centres in different governorates, said VTC Director Ahmad Atwan Saturday.

Addressing the opening session of a training seminar for Lebanese and Sudanese instructors of vocational training, Dr. Atwan outlined the main task of the VTC and the various programmes it carries out in cooperation with local industries.

The VTC is involved with the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) in providing

funds for the trainees to start their own business after finishing their courses, and provides guidance to owners of workshops and small industries, said Dr. Atwan.

Eleven instructors from Sudan and five from Lebanon are taking part in the seminar with funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Jordan Rafiq Shukur briefed the meeting on the UNDP-financed project to develop vocational training programmes.

He said the UNDP will soon

set up three centres for industrial guidance in Amman, Aqaba, and Irbid in order to provide technical know-how to small and medium size industrial projects, especially in production, specification, management and marketing fields.

According to Dr. Atwan, the Sudanese and Lebanese instructors will spend nine days in Jordan to become acquainted with the various VTC activities and its working relationship with private businesses and factories.

The participants will also visit VTC centres and industrial schools.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

★ Belgian film entitled "Het Gezin Van Paemel" (The Van Paemel Family) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

★ Film entitled "Sunrise at Campobello" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (145 minutes).

EXHIBITIONS

★ Engraving exhibition by artist Jean-Pierre Pincemin at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition entitled "Modern and Old Ceramics and Glass" by artists Hamed Rashed and Iman Khalifeh at Goethe-Institut.

★ Exhibition by German artist Allona at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Photo exhibition entitled "Spring Breezes From Jordan" by Dr. Zuhair Mohsen at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ The Jordanian Comprehensive Medical Fair '94 (displaying medical and drug industries, medical appliances, computer and X-Ray equipment, and dental equipment) at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

★ Exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Italian Language Centre (9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 669348)

★ Exhibition of Zalloum foodstuff products at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by Egyptian artist Shalabiya Ibrahim at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 678589).

★ Exhibition of spring paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

★ "Spring Exhibition 1994" at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery (Tel. 699914).

★ Exhibition by artist Perween Al Sarraf at Aha'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).

★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Hayfa Habbab and Farouk Hassan at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of Jordanian herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Flower exhibition entitled "The Flower Bridge Between Jordan and Palestine" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman (10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 679166)

★ Art exhibition by artist Ahmed Nawar at Balla' Art Gallery in Fuheis (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720902).

★ Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).

★ Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptor Samer Tabbaa. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Book exhibition at the Safeway International.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Policies that defy reason

HARDLY A day passes by in the occupied Arab territories without many Palestinians falling victim to Israeli atrocities and violations of human rights. The killing of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers or settlers is a daily reality that has become of routine news value to the international media, and even less significance to the international community.

Only a crime of the enormity of the Hebron massacre draws the attention of the big powers in the world to the suffering of the Palestinian people and Israel's disregard for all international norms and human values. This attention fades, though, sooner than the blood of Palestinians dries on the ground.

Such is not the case with violence against Israelis. The killing of any number of Israelis by frustrated Palestinians has all world capitals racing to condemn "Arab acts of terrorism" and offer support for Israel.

The world is serving neither the Palestinians nor the Israelis through such exercises in hypocrisy. Nor is Israel protecting its future and that of the region by failing to address the root causes of violence in the occupied territories.

Israel is responsible for the Afula bombing as much as it is responsible for the Hebron massacre. Its policies in the occupied territories provided the settlers with the means for killing the Palestinians as they prayed in the Ibrahimi Mosque. Those same policies left the young Palestinian who carried out the Afula suicide attack no choice but to give Israelis a taste of what their government has been allowing to happen to Palestinians for decades.

Israeli politicians condemned the Hebron massacre. So should Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat condemn the Afula bombing, demands the U.S. and other world powers. The naivety and insensitivity of comparing the two unfortunate events are appalling, even though the killing of innocent people and civilians cannot be condoned by anybody or quarter.

Had the international community been genuinely interested in ending the bloodshed in the occupied territories, however, it would have had taken action to end it long before the Afula bombing took place. That it could have done by putting enough pressure on Israel to remove the injustices to which Palestinians are subjected on a daily basis. Instead of removing the settlers, admittedly a main obstacle to the attainment of peace in the region, Israel threw a blanket curfew on the West Bank and Gaza. That deprived Palestinians from even providing for their daily needs. The suffering increased and retaliatory action became an inevitable response.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman thus found himself unable to condemn the Afula attack personally. By doing so, he might have only infuriated his people whose members are being killed by Israelis by the hour. Israel, on the other hand, could afford to condemn the Hebron massacre because it has within its reach tens of other measures to appease its citizens.

The most the PLO can do in reaction to Israeli atrocities is boycott the peace talks, and that it cannot do for long because of the pressures that Washington and other world powers would put on it.

But Israel does not boycott the talks, winning world praise for not allowing "rejectionists" to abort the peace process. What it does, instead, is put two million Palestinians under siege again by closing the West Bank and Gaza totally. The negative implications of this act for the peace process far exceed those of withdrawing from the negotiation. Yet a few in the world community seem to notice; and Israel gets away with murder.

Thus only Palestinian desperation grows, and the cycle of violence continues unabated. When inclination towards peace becomes the ultimate casualty, we can all be sure that the peace process stands to suffer. Just when the Israelis get to realise the folly of their policies is the question that we cannot answer.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AS A sponsor of the Middle East peace process, the United States ought to be fair and just in its dealings with the Arabs and the Israelis and to help the two sides reach permanent peace, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. It is incumbent on the United States to find a lasting solution to the roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and not to encourage the Israelis to shoot Palestinians in mosques and later to impose a curfew on the city of Hebron, whose inhabitants are the victims of repression, said the daily. The United States can see the Arabs being oppressed and can watch the sufferings of the Palestinians but is lifting no finger to help them or end the atrocities, the paper pointed out. There is no record, said the paper, that the U.S. administration has demanded that the Israeli government apologise for the massacre in the mosque or for the millions of human rights violations committed by the Israelis, it added. What Washington should seek to achieve now is ending the mass punishment and curfews imposed on the Arab population so that an opportune climate for peace can be created, said the paper. It said that Washington is required to move now to put an end to the endless cycle of violence in the occupied Arab lands.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

A battle on the social front

A JORDANIAN weekly picked up a paragraph in a recent UNICEF report stating that some 200,000 Jordanian children do not receive adequate food. The paper thought that the international agency conducted a survey to arrive at this sad conclusion.

In fact the UNICEF is not equipped to do something of the sort. It simply used the line of poverty produced by the Ministry of Social Development, which found that around 18.3 per cent of the families in Jordan were, at mid 1993, below the line of poverty, supposed to be at the level of JD 119 per month, or \$2000 per year per family. It is of course quite reasonable to assume that 18.3 per cent of the Jordanian children consume less food than desired, i.e., there is nothing new.

It is not our purpose here to play down the importance and urgency of combatting poverty, whether its percentage turned out to be higher or lower than it is in other countries. The purpose is to acknowledge, at the same time, the achievements of Jordan on the social front.

In a research paper on "Population and Mother and Child Health" presented at the Conference on Population and Basic Needs in Jordan, organised by the National Population Commission in September 1991, certain indicators were given. (See table).

These indicators deserve to be highlighted too. It is true that we still have a long way to go in the field of human development, but it is equally true that we have some major achievements which we can be proud of.

Some politically motivated critics believe that it is their duty to point out the dark spots and the shortcomings, because that is a sure way to prodding the government to do more. However, the government's achievements also deserve to be acknowledged and appreciated. Success is the best incentive for more success. If we have the right to criticise failures, we have the duty to appreciate successes. To throw mud on the face of Jordan should not be an evidence of championship of social causes.

Similarly, it is tempting for pessimists to claim that the middle class is melting down and is about to disappear and join the poor. Poverty, they claim, is expanding by the day.

Such claim is normally accepted by our public opinion without demanding any evidence; not even a simple definition

	Jordan	Middle East	The World
Child deaths per 1000	32	86	97
Malnutrition	6%	24%	36%
Elementary education	83%	78%	77%
Elementary education	92%	81%	68%
Women fertility	5.8%	5.0%	3.4
Mothers' mortality per 100,000 deliveries	48	210	310

of the middle class was given.

According to the Marxist definition, the middle class, or the bourgeoisie, represent the whole society minus industrial labourers and peasants. That makes some 20 per cent of the Jordanian manpower on one side, and the large real estate owners and industrialists who make no more than 10 per cent on the other side. The middle class thus covers some 70 per cent of the Jordanian population.

If people are to be classified according to the level of income, we can identify no more than 20 per cent below the line of poverty, and 10 per cent of high and open income groups that include large real estate owners, contractors, importers and industrialists. The rest form the middle class. They normally earn their living through employment in the public and private sectors. Those who earn high salaries, or are professionals and self-employed and are highly educated, can be sub labeled as upper middle class.

By all measures, the middle class in Jordan is sound and big. It is the core of the Jordanian society. It forms anything between two thirds to three quarters of 600,000 Jordanian families.

The middle class shoulders the major burden of taxes. The poor hardly pay any tax. The rich are not affected by higher taxes. The middle class pays taxes at the expense of its members standard of living.

If the national economy prospers, the middle class will benefit. If the national economy faces trouble, the middle class will be the first to suffer. Therefore, it is the middle class which is more interested in economic, administrative and political reform. It naturally should pay the price of such reform.



Time for another, different revolution

By Dick J. Reavis

THE PISTOL shots fired recently in a Tijuana slum ended two political lives and, perhaps, one political era.

Luis Donaldo Colosio, the presidential candidate of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), died a literal death. Manuel Camacho, the popular former mayor of Mexico City, suffered an equally unexpected but merely political demise. And the shooting may well mark the close of Mexico's epoch of modernisation.

Had Mr. Colosio been felled by a streetcar or a heart attack, Mr. Camacho would have been the favourite to take his place. As the government's peace envoy to the rebels in Chiapas, he has won wide acclaim by giving voice to the rebels' complaints. Two weeks ago, opinion polls showed that if he bolted the PRI and ran for president as an independent, he would be the most popular contender.

But Mr. Camacho is no favourite of the party faithful. When the peace envoy tried to join the wake at PRI headquarters, staff members and party stalwarts accosted him, chanting, "Colosio, sí! Camacho, no!" Nobody knows what motivated Mr. Colosio's assassin. But when facts are absent, what the people believe counts. A poll published in the Mexico City daily Reforma indicated that around 80 per cent of respondents had leapt to the conclusion that the killing was part of a conspiracy. Mr. Camacho is a primary suspect. His career, inside or outside the PRI, may have hit a dead end.

The shooting heralds the end of Mexico's modernising, neoliberal epoch, and possibly the demise of the PRI, unless it reinvents itself again.

The party has presided over the presidency since 1929, in various ideological robes. It put on a neoliberal suit in 1982, when Mexico was bankrupted by an oil bust and Miguel de la

Madrid Hurtado became president. During his six-year term and the subsequent reign of his headstrong acolyte, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the PRI removed the trade walls and safety nets that it had long ago raised to protect and pacify Mexico.

The modernisation gambit climaxed last fall, when the North American Free Trade Agreement became law. The strategy was mortally wounded on Jan. 1, when the Chiapas rebels came down from the hills, during the peasantry to knock the government to its knees.

In politics, when something dies, something else — sometimes the same entity in a different guise — takes its place. According to the Reforma poll, many Mexicans believe that if the PRI did not order the Colosio shooting, he was killed by the criminals and revolutionaries who are greasing their guns everywhere. Mexicans have put up with the PRI's corruption for decades, but if it cannot control the desperados, they will have little use for it.

Recently, when a wealthy financier, Alfredo Harp Helu, disappeared, federal authorities revealed a recent wave of some 200 kidnappings of ranchers and financial dons. Because it wants to deny that revolutionary predatedors are becoming widespread, the PRI — without any proof — blamed a hypothetical band of mercenary thugs for the kidnappings. Not many Mexicans are buying the line.

There are other causes of discontent. In the last 12 years, as prices rose and wages stood still, the purchasing power of working-class Mexicans declined by 60 per cent. As if to close an avenue of escape, in 1992 the government cancelled the long-standing promise of acreage to anyone willing to put it under the plow.

It also opened Mexico's doors to competing goods — from corn to communications satellites — from the United

States, the meddlesome power that Mexicans have held in low esteem since Sam Houston's day.

Although his term is not over, Carlos Salinas has earned a berth in history as Mexico's third radical moderniser. The first two are giants of infamy. Not a single public monument stands in Mexico to Hernan Cortes, who conquered the country for Spain. Porfirio Diaz, who paid off the country's 19th century debt, presided over the laying of railroad and electric lines and drove peasants off their lands, is reviled as a dictator.

Mexico is more like China or Iran than the Italy that pro-NAFTA Americans take it to be. Modernisation — Westernisation — has never been popular in the Aztec homeland.

"When you have the kind of breakdown in the traditional way of doing things that we've had under Salinas, and you don't replace it with anything but your own power, arrogance, schemes and talents, you get into trouble," the political scientist and writer Jorge Castañeda says.

The party's victories — always rife with fraud — at least held out the illusion of democracy and provided an orderly transfer of power. But this year its victory claim will run head-on into armed disbelief and charges of fraud. The party's best known figures are not eligible to run because the constitution requires cabinet officers to resign six months before election day, which is Aug. 21.

Sixty years (ago or even six), the PRI would have resolved the constitutional pinch by hastily amending the law, but those days are gone. Anyway, the party's leaders are identified with policies that are rapidly falling out of favour.

Mr. Colosio's death is also unsettling because assassination of leading politicians has not been a specter in post-revolutionary Mexican life. The country's last major political killing came in 1928, when

President-elect Alvaro Obregón was gunned down.

Mexican commoners don't shoot presidents. This is not because crazies are in short supply but because leaders have retained some of the reverence once accorded to Aztec, godkings. For years, Mexicans have been disgruntled with the PRI's policies, but when El Presidente addresses them (even on television), the people take deep breaths, awed by the pageantry and pomp. The bullets fired in Tijuana pierced that reverence, and the candidates are scared.

At the start of the campaign, in displays of closeness to the people (conducted against a backdrop of popular infatuation with the hug-happy rebel leader, Sub-commander Marcos), they spurned the usual security squads. Now they are changing their minds.

"We will maintain our regime of freedom and constitutional order," Mr. Salinas declared after Mr. Colosio's death. And President Bill Clinton, referring to Mexico, the PRI and undoubtedly NAFTA, said, "fundamentally, they're in good shape."

Both leaders are whistling in the dark. Mexico is headed for an epoch as turbulent as 1968-1974, when terrorists kidnapped industrialists, the police murdered dissidents and guerrillas sniped at soldiers in the hills.

For years, curious Americans have asked Mexican friends when the revolution might resume. The appropriate response has been a wry "manana." If Mexico is lucky, manana will come in August.

But it won't come peaceably unless Mexico's leaders can convince the public that the PRI can conduct an aboveboard — and, in Mexico, truly revolutionary — election campaign.

The writer is author of "Conversations With Mestizmas: Ancient Shadows Over Modern Life in Mexico." This column is reprinted from the New York Times.

Hosokawa falls to doubts over own record

By Sebastian Moffett
Reuters

TOKYO — Morihiro Hosokawa shot to power by campaigning against corruption in Japanese politics, but his downfall was due to an inability to shake off allegations that he too had participated in shady deals.

Mr. Hosokawa's resignation as prime minister on Friday followed four weeks of parliamentary paralysis as the opposition Liberal Democrats (LDP) held the national budget hostage to push demands that he come clean over deals he made in the 1980s.

Instead of getting on with the job of pushing through the budget, he has spent much of the past few weeks parrying queries over his personal finances from tenacious opposition lawmakers.

Mr. Hosokawa insisted 100 million yen (\$980,000) he took in 1982 from Sagawa Kyubin, a trucking company involved in a 1992-93 money-and-mobsters payoff scandal, was a loan he had repaid by 1991.

Despite his denials, the LDP said it suspected the money was used illicitly to fund his successful 1983 bid for election as governor of Kumamoto, in southern Japan.

It demanded he produce receipts proving he repaid the money and that he allow a former financial aide to testify in parliament on the affair.

Mr. Hosokawa also came under attack for a 1986-1987 transaction in shares of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp (NTT) that he claimed was conducted by his late father-in-law.

The problem snowballed to such an extent that when he was reported a few days ago to have said in jest, and over drinks, that he wanted to resign, many people thought that despite his denials this was actually what he wanted to do.

By Wednesday, the "joke" was headline news in most of Japan's top dailies and the main item on television talk shows.

The circumstances of Mr. Hosokawa's resignation came as a supreme irony for a man who made his name in national politics by pledging to clean it up.

After serving as Kumamoto governor until 1990, making a name for himself as a maverick planner and reformer, he quit the LDP and in

1992 formed the Japan New Party.

He said he wanted to reform a political system that, with the LDP monopolising national power for four decades, had developed into a hot-bed of money politics.

At first the political establishment gave him a cool reception, but Mr. Hosokawa was able to capitalise on his pedigree as scion of a renowned Samurai family, his reforming record in local politics and refreshingly clean, youthful image. Born in 1938, he was a generation younger than the LDP leadership.

His message won popular support and contributed to the LDP's losing a no-confidence motion last year after it reneged on promises to pass bills outlawing political corruption.

In subsequent elections, his party came from nowhere to wrest 53 seats in the 511-member lower house. The LDP lost its majority, and Mr. Hosokawa, with no experience of national government, was chosen in August to lead an awkward coalition of conservatives, socialists and Buddhists.

The electorate appeared to sympathise with his struggle to pass electoral reforms in the teeth of LDP spitting and resistance from coalition elements to make any concessions. For a time, he basked in honeymoon poll ratings of around 70 per cent, a record for post-war Japan.

Eventually, after being forced to compromise with the LDP, he passed a package of watered-down reforms in January and seemed to be strengthening his grip on power.

Under opposition attack for his Sagawa dealings, however, Mr. Hosokawa's ratings began to melt away.

As troubles piled up, Mr. Hosokawa had to spend much of his time scrapping in the domestic political arena. But he also drew attention abroad for a style that diverged from Japan's previous foreign policy.

The LDP had established a pattern of backing down in battles with the United States over trade and other thorny bilateral issues.

Mr. Hosokawa had established an early friendship with U.S. President Bill Clinton, but relations soured in February when the two men failed to agree on a deal over reducing Japan's enormous trade surplus with the United States.

Bosnia's final battle could be waged soon

By Dusan Stojanovic
The Associated Press

BELGRADE — The powerful Serb onslaught on a Muslim enclave proclaimed a U.N. "safe area" could, ironically, hasten the end of the Bosnian war.

After the battle for Gorazde, a besieged Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia, both Serbs and Muslims may finally come to the understanding that only negotiations and not military force can end two years of bloodshed.

The Serb attack on Gorazde, which started in late March, was apparently prompted by a staunch Muslim opposition to accepting a painful reality on the ground: The heavily armed Serbs control 72 per cent of the republic.

The Serb message was: If Muslims continuously reject as inadequate Serb offers to relinquish 16 per cent of their military gains, they will be faced with losing even more land.

The isolated pocket of Gorazde was an easy target since the rapidly improving Bosnian government army was unable to provide fire support or reinforcements for its beleaguered defenders.

Muslims, boosted by a newly established federation with Croats in Bosnia, had apparently believed they could retake some of their lost territory by military means instead of negotiations. They reportedly launched a series of attacks on Serb-held positions in other parts of Bosnia.

The government forces achieved some gains in central and northern Bosnia before Serbs responded with full force near Gorazde, one of the six "safe areas" proclaimed by the U.N. Security Council a year ago.

"If the Muslims do not immediately stop their offensive along all confrontation lines, we will order an all-out counteroffensive and then let the Security Council help them," Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic warned Thursday.

The Muslims, who are seeking about 64 per cent of Bosnia for the federation, had counted on Western moral and Croat military support for their campaign. But neither came.

Instead, the West reacted with indifference, calling for more negotiations. The Croats, the weakest side in the war, proved incapable of altering the balance.

The warring parties "ought to negotiate a peace and get it over with, and I hope they will," U.S. President Bill Clinton said Monday.

Even Lt. Gen. Michael Rose, the U.N. commander in Bosnia, downplayed the power of the Serbian offensive, calling it a limited attack, despite dramatic reports to the contrary by his own U.N. military observers in Gorazde.

Using their overwhelming superiority in artillery and tanks, the Serbs penetrated deep into the pocket, which is home to an estimated 65,000 people, many of them refugees who have fled nearby villages shelled by the Serbs.

If this is "not serious" as (the U.N.) seems to be saying... I hope I don't see a serious situation develop," commented one of the U.N. military observers in Gorazde in a radio report made available by U.N. sources who insisted on anonymity.

Faced with the prospect of losing Gorazde, the largest of three remaining enclaves in eastern Bosnia, the Muslims conditionally accepted a Serb offer for negotiating a general ceasefire in the republic.

Kurdish villagers form frail defence against guerrillas

By Suna Erden
Reuters

DERINCE, Turkey — Turkey has lavished guns and money on 56,000 Kurdish village guards, reluctant warriors in a pitiless struggle with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

Getting Kurds to take up government weapons against their guerrilla kin scores points for Ankara in the propaganda war with the PKK in the southeast. But their military value is debatable.

A score of state-paid local guards failed to prevent PKK raiders from killing 22 of their women and children in an attack on Derince village, nestled below two craggy peaks, last October.

Reporters taken to Derince in a military helicopter late last month were told the men were at home when the rebels struck at night.

"The guards just don't use their guns. All that money and training goes to waste," said Musa, one of 20 Turkish soldiers sent to protect Derince's 200 people after the attack.

More than 11,000 people have been killed in Turkey since the PKK began its secessionist struggle in the southeast in 1984.

Kurdish peasants may become village guards for the money or in response to pressure from the security forces or their own tribes.

The monthly pay of around 4.5 million lira (\$188) is such a powerful lure in the impoverished region that men even enlist their toddler sons so the family can rake in extra cash.

"You go into a village and see little kids running around with guns," one soldier from Siirt province said.

Locals say some Kurdish farmers, squeezed by both sides in the conflict, have to choose between becoming guards or leaving their homes. Turkey denies charges by human rights groups that its troops burn or forcibly evacuate recalcitrant villages.

"In practice, many guards are afraid to fight and hide behind their women," Musa said, gesturing at Derince's Ragrag group of weather-worn, middle-aged men with assault rifles.

Village guard Ismail Erdem, asked how he protected his family, pointed his rifle to the sky and said: "We have Allah."

Soldiers said women

gathering wood or working in the fields were easy prey for the PKK. Men let the women answer the door.

Colonel Esref Hatipoglu, in charge of 100,000 gendarmes in Diyarbakir province, said the guards were vital to match the PKK's local knowledge and familiarity with the mountainous terrain.

"Conscripts from places like Istanbul or Ankara don't know the villages, their customs, the country," Mr. Hatipoglu told reporters.

He said low educational standards in the southeast made it harder to turn the unruly guards, some of whom speak only rudimentary Turkish, into an effective defence force.

"Sometimes guards fight among themselves in blood feuds like cave men," he said. "They are not always easy to control."

"Television programmes in Kurdish would help raise general knowledge and awareness and may reduce fighting," he said.

Turkey lifted a ban on spoken Kurdish in 1991, but education and broadcasting in Kurdish are still officially forbidden.

Mr. Hatipoglu said the guards were a tangible show of backing for the state. "Some villages support the PKK. Local support is essential. Whoever gets support wins the war," he said.

Derince guards voice loyalty to Turkey, but almost in the same breath complain bitterly of the state's shortcomings.

"We have no water, no electricity. The government has done nothing for us on this god-forsaken mountain," said Mr. Erdem.

Mr. Hatipoglu blamed the plight of Derince and other villages on the PKK rebels, saying they cut power and telephone lines and wrecked water supplies, bridges and road-building machinery.

Village guards are reviled by Kurdish nationalists as traitors, especially in pro-PKK strongholds such as the town of Cizre, where the guards danced, played drums and waved Turkish flags to mark the new year festival of Nowrouz on March 21.

The PKK had told its supporters to stay at home to avoid bloody clashes of the kind that disrupted Nowrouz in 1992, when townsfolk staged Kurdish nationalist demonstrations.



Armed policemen take positions with automatic rifles while Zulus take cover during a gunbattle at ANC headquarters in Johannesburg (AFP photo)

South Africa's killing fields

State of emergency fails to halt Natal violence

By Judith Matloff
Reuters

DURBAN, South Africa — The state of emergency declared in South Africa's Zulu heartland has failed in its first week to curb violence tearing the region apart and there are too few troops to enforce it, violence monitors say.

President F.W. de Klerk imposed the state of emergency on Natal province and the adjoining KwaZulu homeland March 31 to quell unrest and ensure the country's first all-race elections proceed as scheduled on April 26-28.

But more than 110 people have died in the region in the past week, over 20 since Tuesday in one of the most

violent 24-hour periods in the region in four years of apartheid reform.

The seven-day death toll is more than a third of the 300 deaths recorded in March, and the daily killings have risen sharply since the violence was declared.

Violence monitors said the 1,200 troops deployed on the ground were too few to police properly the lush hilly area and stop a virtual civil war between Zulu followers of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), which is expected to win the polls comfortably, and Chief Mangosuthu Buthe's Inkatha Freedom Party which is boycotting the elections.

An electoral report issued on Tuesday said it would be impossible to hold free and

fair elections in KwaZulu because of the high level of political intolerance and intimidation.

Independent violence monitor Mary de Haas said the troop presence was "better than nothing."

"(It would be impossible to hold free and fair elections in KwaZulu because of the high level of political intolerance and intimidation."

"But there just aren't enough troops to deal with the situation. It's too little, too late," she added.

Other monitors said that while it was reassuring to contact the South African defence force with reports of potential flashpoints, police often did not follow up tip-

offs and army raids with arrests.

Independent violence monitors in the killing fields of Natal have long complained that the problem is not a lack of security force numbers, but a lack of effi-

cient and impartial policing. In a graphic example of the apparent powerlessness of the security forces, dozens of police and soldiers backed by armoured vehicles, helicopters and dogs looked on as 10,000 pro-Inkatha Zulus defied emergency regulations and marched with their "tra-

ditional" weapons in northern Natal on Tuesday.

Police said they had decided not to strip them of their spears, fighting sticks, machetes and knives.

"There would have been a bloodbath if we had tried to disarm them. You can only imagine what would have happened," police spokeswoman Major Margaret Kruger told Reuters.

Asked if this reflected poorly on the security forces' ability to enforce the state of emergency, she nodded and said: "Yes, I guess it does."

"This makes a mockery of the state of emergency," said one international observer, as police gave up searching the dozens of buses packed with marchers arriving at the

northern Natal town of empanjeni for the ultimately peaceful march.

Police said they would gather evidence on march organisers, including senior Inkatha members. But it would be up to the attorney-general to lay charges of violations of the emergency regulations banning the carrying of weapons.

Some violence monitors questioned whether there would in fact be a crackdown on Inkatha officials.

Political analysts and monitors said Inkatha's boycott of the elections contributed directly to the increase in violence.

"Inkatha is trying to enforce what they want through sheer terror," said Mary de Haas.

RJ to get capital boost

(Continued from page 1)

KPMG Peat of London under the supervision of a government-appointed technical committee, is expected to recommend a modality for privatising the airline while retaining majority Jordanian ownership.

It was reported earlier that the consultants had submitted a draft report which was asked to be revised by the committee. No detail was available of the report.

However, it is believed that the government favours transforming the airline into an entity wholly owned by the government as well as government agencies and some of its local creditors in the first phase.

The second phase will involve investing foreign capital of up to 49 per cent, according to a recommendation submitted by an international firm which conducted a study two years ago.

The study also recommended that the capital of the airline be raised to at least \$100 million. The latest move of the government meets that recommendation part way.

The airline has 16 planes — four Airbus-310s, three Airbus-320s, five TriStars, two Boeing 727s and three Boeing 707s. It is scheduled to take delivery of another Airbus-320 in June.

The airline has a good number of lucrative routes and it has been registering good operational profits after a period of slackness during the late 1980s. Amman serves as a transit point for travellers from Europe and the U.S. to the Far East, including Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

Israel rejects PLO call

(Continued from page 1)

tories was acceptable to the PLO.

"What is the meaning of a prolonged closure?" Dr. Tibi replied. "The halt to the employment of thousands of people, harm to the livelihood of thousands of families ... and therefore the direct result is damage to all residents of the territories."

Dr. Tibi, speaking in Hebrew, called on Israel to find a way to maintain security for Israelis without harming Palestinians.

"With all the understanding for security considerations, an answer must be found to the harm caused to Palestinian residents of the territories because Israel is still responsible for the livelihood and sustenance of the Palestinians," he said.

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said Saturday that he feared more delays in the peace talks would lead to further violence and accused

Violence continues in Rwanda

(Continued from page 1)

or who was organising the convoys.

The United Nations was also considering sending 1,500 reinforcements to the peacekeeping force in Rwanda to evacuate foreigners, but long deliberations would be likely before they could be sent. A Security Council session was planned later Saturday.

Distant shelling could be heard Saturday from the rebel camp at Mulindi, 70 kilometres north of the capital. A U.N. observer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the rebels were attacking on three fronts.

General Paul Kagame,

chairman of the rebel command, said they were fighting the hardline presidential guard.

"We appeal to all Rwandans to help fight this clique, including government soldiers who may want to join us," Gen. Kagame said Saturday on rebel Radio Mvabura.

Another rebel commander, Theogene Rudasingwa, said the Rwanda Patriotic Front was trying to advance on Kigali to reinforce 600 rebels, mainly Tutsis, battling the Hutu guard and government troops.

The guard and the rebels were not involved in the selection of the new government, according to a U.N. statement issued in New York.

Fighting in Rwanda has left hundreds dead, including about 20 priests and nuns and dozens of aid workers. But Burundi was reported calm.

Wounded and dead "can be counted by the thousands," said Dr. Pierre Harze, a spokesman in Paris for the humanitarian organisation Doctors Without Borders.

"There are a huge number of bodies in the street," he said, citing staff members in Kigali. The savage fighting broke out Wednesday night.

On Thursday Acting Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana was reported dragged from a U.N. compound by members of the presidential guard and killed in front of U.N. workers, U.N. sources said.

Ten Belgian peacekeepers

when the West Bank and Gaza were seized.

"He (Rabin) follows the philosophy that if you fight with someone, you want to weaken him," Dr. Shaath said. "If you're making peace, the opposite is true. You want to strengthen your opponent so he can deliver."

Dr. Shaath warned that further delays would lead to more violence by opponents of the peace process.

"The longer the process drags on, the more it encourages extremists on both sides," he said.

Dr. Shaath also revealed that PLO and Israeli negotiators agreed last week that 9,000 Palestinians will be deployed in Gaza and Jericho. But he said the negotiators are still debating whether 6,500 or 7,000 will come from outside the two territories.

The "outsiders" will be Palestinians drawn from PLO military units across the Arab World. Many already have undergone police training in Jordan and Egypt, and PLO sources say some will be allowed to return to Gaza and

Jericho with their families.

Dr. Shaath said, however, that the two sides were still debating how large the initial contingent will be.

"Israel has asked for 300, we are asking for the three battalions, or about 1,000," Dr. Shaath said. "We're still discussing it."

He said there would be some "overlap" in deployment, with Palestinian police moving into areas at least a week before Israeli troops withdraw.

"All these schedules will be triggered when we have a date for the signing," Dr. Shaath said. "We don't have a commitment yet."

He said that weaponry for the police had been agreed, but did not give details. And he said Israel has accepted "by and large" that the force will enter with some ceremony to make clear to the disillusioned residents that now Palestinian police would be protecting them.

Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee and a top aide to Mr. Arafat, arrived in Cairo this weekend and would act as a consultant to the Palestinian team, Dr. Shaath said.

were tortured and killed, the commander of the Belgian U.N. peacekeepers in Rwanda, Colonel Luc Marchal, told Belgian RTBF radio. An 11th body was unidentified but could be a peacekeeper, reports said.

The U.N. soldiers were part of a 2,500-man peacekeeping force sent to administer an accord the Hutus reached with the Tutsis in August. The accord, under which Uwilingiyimana took office, has divided the Hutus.

The U.N. Security Council president said the new government represents a range of political leaders from opposition parties but no one in the new government came from the military.

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Coalition
to choose
Hosokawa
successor
in a week

OKYO (R) — Japan's ruling coalition, struggling to contain deepening division within its ranks, decided Saturday to give itself seven days to choose a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. "We have agreed in principle to form a new government by the end of next week," said Party Secretary-General Wataru Kubo told a news conference after the coalition met.

Mr. Hosokawa stays on as caretaker until parliament meets a new prime minister, who is likely to take place by Saturday. Mr. Kubo said a coalition aimed to re-open a long-stalled debate on the budget for 1995 by April 18. The opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said was lifting a four-week parliamentary boycott it had agreed to put pressure on Mr. Hosokawa.

A spokesman for one of the coalition parties, Hajime Mada, predicted the new government would be transitional. "Given the time allowed to the new government will be a full-fledged one and any cabinet members will obviously retain their posts," Mr. Funada said.

Mr. Hosokawa did not attend Saturday's meeting, announcing his resignation. He said it would be prudent for him to name a successor or take part in coalition discussions.

The resignation of Mr. Hosokawa, Japan's self-proclaimed "Mr. Clean," threw coalition politics into ferment. Parties scrambled to find possible partners for what promises to be a complex process of political realignment. The conservative LDP's loss of power last year after 38 years of rule gave birth to three new parties that formed the coalition. Mr. Hosokawa's coalition.

But to ensure a majority, they had to co-opt other centrist parties and, above all, the leftist-dominated Socialists, who had been in opposition for years.

In the eight months of Mr. Hosokawa's rule, only a hatred of the LDP's old corrupt ways kept the alliance together. Ironically for an avowed anti-corruption campaigner, it was Mr. Hosokawa's own badly personal finances that had brought him low. He held a Friday news conference in which he said he was resigning because he felt responsible for a parliamentary deadlock sparked by a shadowy affair which blocked passage of the national budget.

S. African leaders fail to
end constitutional row

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Zulu nationalist leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said Saturday his "incensed" followers would fight for autonomy, making clear he had been unable to reach agreement with the government and the ANC during talks the day before.

"Although we don't have an army or security forces... the people themselves here are our last line of defence, because the people themselves are incensed by what is being done to them," Mr. Buthelezi told reporters in Ulundi, capital of the KwaZulu-Natal province, where he leads during a break in meetings with his Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

Mr. Buthelezi was briefing the party's Central Committee on talks he held Friday with African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela. President F.W. de Klerk and Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini.

Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk failed to persuade the Zulu nationalist leaders to join the April 26-28 election, the first in South Africa to include the black majority. The parties did agree to call in international mediators and proposed another meeting next week in a bid to settle differences before the vote, just three weeks away.

In a statement Friday, the ANC said it had been "reliably informed" that Mr. Mandela and top aides Thabo Mbeki and Cyril Ramaphosa were the targets of an assassination plot. It also said Inkatha members were stockpiling arms in the Johannesburg area and would try to disrupt weekend rallies marking the death of Chris Hani, an ANC and Communist Party leader who was shot by white rightists last April 10.

"Any attempts to disrupt our activities commemorating the life and work of comrade Chris Hani will be dealt with firmly," the ANC said. "We shall not allow the spoilers and wreckers to destroy South Africa's chances for free and fair elections."

At least 11,000 blacks have died in political violence in the last three years, most of them in clashes linked to the ANC-Inkatha war. Bloodshed between supporters and opponents of the elections has exacerbated ANC-Inkatha rivalries and threatens to disrupt the polling.

Friday's unprecedented four-man summit was seen as a last chance to curb violence between Zulu supporters of the ANC and Inkatha, particularly in the eastern Natal province, Inkatha's stronghold.

Mr. Mandela, campaigning Saturday in northern South Africa, said the ANC had offered King Goodwill status similar to that of British monarchs.

"I am sorry His Majesty did not accept my offer. I had thought he would," Mr. Mandela said. "We will continue prevailing upon him to accept the honour we are prepared to give him."

But the proposal fell well short of Zulu demands for a sovereign homeland, and King Goodwill said he had not changed his mind about boycotting the vote.

Mr. de Klerk, campaigning in central South Africa, seemed resigned to a Zulu nationalist boycott.

"They are getting thinner and thinner because they won't eat," Mr. de Klerk said of Inkatha. "Political party food is to participate in elections and get votes. But Inkatha does not want votes and won't participate."

King Goodwill and Mr. Buthelezi oppose the elections, fearing that an expected ANC victory will trample Zulu culture. The ANC plans to abolish ethnic homelands such as the KwaZulu region within Natal.

Agreement on the Zulu king's status is considered key to the summit's success because most of the nation's 7.5 million Zulus consider him their paramount leader.

If the king accepted a ceremonial role, that could persuade Mr. Buthelezi to back down on his demand for an independent monarchy, raising the possibility of peaceful voting in Natal.

Rivalry between the ANC and Zulu nationalists has sparked fierce fighting across the country, but particularly in Natal.

Police in Natal said Saturday that 16 people died in political violence in Natal Thursday and Friday, bringing to 134 the number killed in bitter feuds since a state of emergency was declared in the province on March 31.

The summit was called after a Zulu march through downtown Johannesburg sparked street battles on March 28 that killed at least 53 people, most of them Zulus.



South African President F.W. de Klerk (centre) is surrounded by African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela (left) and Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini at a press conference held in Skuzza after talks aimed at bringing an end to the bloodshed in Natal (AFP photo).

Serbs breach Muslim lines in Gorazde

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs have stormed a hilltop overlooking the besieged Muslim town of Gorazde and captured a "clear line of sight" for tank and artillery fire on its centre, the U.N. reported Saturday.

Peacekeepers' spokesman Rob Annink said the Serbs drove Muslim defenders off the 1,000 metre high peak of the Gradina salient Friday under cover of a U.N. brokered ceasefire.

The assault put the Serbs within four kilometres of the centre of Gorazde after almost two weeks of fighting in which at least 85 Muslims have been killed and around 400 wounded.

Maj. Annink acknowledged it was a "major advance" but said U.N. commander General Sir Michael Rose stuck to his assessment that the Serbs would not try to capture the town which is supposed to be a U.N. protected safe haven.

"The Bosnian Serb army has the initiative and military dominance but we do not think Gorazde is under imminent threat of being taken because it is strongly defended and because we do not believe the Serbs actually want to take the town," the spokesman said.

The U.N. previously doubted the Serbs could capture the hill which it said was heavily defended by Bosnian government fighters among the 65,000 people trapped in the Gorazde enclave.

The assault was made during a 24-hour ceasefire arranged by Gen. Rose with both sides while he tried to negotiate an overall truce in Bosnia between Serbs and Muslims.

Muslim forces still control the lower reaches of the Gradina heights but their positions were in jeopardy because Serbs now hold the peak.

"The Serbs have taken part of it but that part makes the rest of it less defensible," Maj. Annink added. "The Bosnian Serb position is militarily dominant. They are strong."

Serb forces have captured 7.5 per cent of the Gorazde pocket in the latest fighting around Gorazde which they have besieged since Bosnia's civil war began two years ago.

The capture of the Gradina peak clearly embarrassed the U.N. and Gen. Rose protested to General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Bosnian Serb army.

Answering charges the Serbs deliberately exploited the ceasefire, Maj. Annink told reporters that word of it might not have reached frontline Serb troops "because it is very hard for both armies to communicate (quickly) to lower levels."

But he admitted that an operation on this scale would have required careful planning with the involvement of senior officers.

The isolated enclaves of Gorazde, Srebrenica and Zepa are the last strongholds remaining to Muslims in eastern Bosnia where they were a

majority of the pre-war population.

Serb forces laid siege to them to try to force their inhabitants to leave as part of a campaign of ethnic cleansing which has left Serbs in sole control of all the other main towns in the region.

Despite the setback in Gorazde, Bosnian government army commander General Rasim Delic went to Sarajevo airport Saturday for fresh ceasefire talks with Gen. Rose and U.S. government representatives. Gen. Mladic was also due to take part.

U.N. sources said U.S. special envoy Charles Redmond wanted Gen. Delic and Gen. Mladic to agree to a two week ceasefire while he consulted all sides and European countries on the shape of an overall political settlement.

The Bosnian government does not want a ceasefire which would freeze frontlines in their present positions which give Serbs 70 per cent of Bosnia's territory, much of it captured from Muslims.

Meanwhile, Croatia and its rebel Serbs moved a step closer to lasting peace Friday when their forces pulled back from the front line in compliance with their latest ceasefire agreement.

Last week, Croat and Serb representatives signed an accord marking a formal end of the 1991 Croatian war, in which Serbs captured one-third of Croatia.

Blass, De La
Renta, Rowley and
Oldham show fall
collection

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Blass and Oscar de la Renta each enjoy a reputation for stitching outfits destined for the best tables in the best restaurants. At their fall previews, the "ladies who lunch" look included bright, swingy wool coat-and-dress sets at Blass, and exotic paisley and faux cheetah ensembles at De La Renta. Elsewhere on the runways Friday, Cynthia Rowley reaffirmed her knack for reinventing the familiar, with whimsical navy "search party dresses" inspired by the New York Police Department.

Thursday night belonged to Todd Oldham, who staged a funky fashion free-for-all with everything from fuzzy argyle slip dresses to puffed-up patterns in lurid colors — even a faux monkey fur sleeves worthy of King Kong. At the Blass showing it was learned that Blass customers this fall will be wearing flared wool reversible coats in blazing colors with contrasting simple sheath dresses, black opaques and black suede heels. If they follow the rules of the Blass runway, they'll also add three-cornered black hats. The collection also contained a generous helping of "Blassisms," including lingerie looks (sexy little black dresses in crepe, lace, sequins or velvet), and sailor styles (brown tweed sailor trousers and dresses with matching jackets).

Blass favours daytime fabrics for evening, such as dinner jackets cast in bright tweeds, and elegant pantsuits in gray wool plaid. De La Renta embarked on a mystical journey to the east that was suggested by spice-toned paisley coats with frog closures and Nehru collars. Opulence was the operative word, as De La Renta lavished on rich gold-embroidered velvet gowns, dazzling sequined boleros, and jackets trimmed with fake cheetah passementerie. Hopping on the fall mohair trend, Cynthia Rowley conjured up fuzzy handkerchief-hem "baby blanket" skirts with satin edges. An "electric blanket coat" came with cord-and-dial belt, guaranteed to keep you toasty when cold winds blow.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Shuttle launched on second attempt

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (R) — The space shuttle Endeavour lifted off from Florida one minute after sunrise Saturday with six NASA astronauts who will use radar to map some of the most environmentally delicate spots on Earth. Delayed two days — one for an engine inspection, one for bad weather, Endeavour rocketed away from the Kennedy Space Centre at 7:05 a.m. EDT (1105 GMT) and climbed a pillar of smoke and flame into an orbit 138 miles (222 km) high. From that vantage point, five men and a woman intend to spend nine and possibly 10 days observing their home planet with cameras and a powerful set of radar eyes that can see through clouds, trees, ice and dry sand to gauge the health of the environment.

In addition to the crew, Endeavour is carrying \$364 million worth of sophisticated radar equipment, an \$8 million air pollution monitor, 14 cameras and hundreds of rolls of film and videotape. The purpose of the 62nd shuttle mission is to see how the space radar laboratory works and determine whether it could be mounted on satellites for non-stop Earth observations in the future.

2 dead in Sri Lanka blasts

COLOMBO (AP) — Four separate bomb explosions, three of them in city hotels, killed at least two people and injured six others last Friday. Two of the explosions were in toilets of two five-star hotels — the Marriott and the Taj Samudra — in the city centre, causing slight damage but no injuries, a police official said Saturday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Parts of the entrance of the Hotel Sapphire were damaged by another bomb which was placed in a bar toilet. Five people, including two hotel employees, were injured in that explosion. The two killed were believed to be carrying the explosives, which went off accidentally on a railroad track at Mount Lavinia, police said. A third man was also injured in the blast. The explosion at the railroad track was so severe that the limbs of the victims were scattered over 50 metres (165 feet). Mount Lavinia is about 15 kilometres (9 miles) south of the city centre. Police said it was not immediately known who was responsible for the explosions, which occurred in the three hours before midnight Friday.

Russian soldier held after killing 4

MOSCOW (R) — A member of the Russian counter-intelligence service was captured after he shot dead four people Saturday and took four more hostages, Interfax News Agency said. The dramatic incident, which further highlights discipline problems in Russia's armed forces, took place near the northern port of Murmansk. It erupted in the early hours when Dmitry Pulkhin stole two Kalashnikov assault rifles and sprayed his barracks with gunfire, killing one sailor and wounding four more. He then commandeered a jeep and headed for the local village, killing along the way an officer, a soldier and the driver of a fire engine who tried to stop him. Mr. Pulkhin fired four hostages in the village and demanded vodka and cigarettes from negotiators sent to talk to him. He was captured after the hostages overpowered him. Meanwhile, Russian Information Agency said a 32-year-old Border Guards officer had blown himself up near the mayor's office in St. Petersburg because he had failed to get an apartment for his family. Major Vasily Surkov, whose wife and two children were living in barracks, killed himself Thursday by setting off two detonators.

IRA truce
ends
violently

BELFAST (R) — The IRA attacked a Belfast police station Saturday, ending a rare truce which brought no obvious sign of moving Northern Ireland towards a lasting peace.

But Gerry Adams, leader of the guerrillas' political wing Sinn Fein, said he was optimistic the unilateral ceasefire had persuaded London he seriously wanted an end to 25 years of conflict. He hinted more truces could follow.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) speedily showed they were back in business, saying they bombed a police barracks in North Belfast 20 minutes after the 72-hour ceasefire officially ran out at midnight (2300 GMT Friday). No one was hurt, police said.

Shots were also fired at two police checkpoints near the border with the Irish Republic but no one was hurt.

Up until the last minute protesters at a peace vigil in Dublin had pleaded for the truce to be prolonged.

Sinn Fein had hinted that the ceasefire, the IRA's first for 19 years barring Christmas gestures, would be lengthened if Britain used it to make contact and answer questions about a key Anglo-Irish peace declaration.

China defuses rights problem with France

SHANGHAI (R) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur Saturday accepted a Chinese assurance that dissidents had not been arrested, defusing a potential human rights row that threatened to sour his visit to China.

Mr. Balladur had demanded an explanation from Chinese authorities after reports that two prominent Shanghai democracy activists had been detained by police shortly before he arrived in China's largest city.

"They assured us there has been no arrest of dissidents in Shanghai in the past hours," French Foreign Affairs Minister Alain Juppe told reporters.

"The assurance given to us was formal and so we accepted that," he added.

Dissident sources told Reuters that Shanghai police Friday detained leading human rights activist Wang Fuchen and on Saturday picked up another dissident, Bao Ge.

On Thursday Beijing police took away one of China's top dissidents, Xu Wenli.

Although the official Chinese version of events and accounts by friends and relatives of the two Shanghai dissidents appear to be contradictory, there is an explanation that hinges on the technical definition of arrest.

An informed French source said Chinese officials told Mr. Balladur that "the two men were detained for two hours and then freed." There was no independent confirmation that the two dissidents had been released.

French officials stressed that the problem was now completely solved and had done no damage to Mr. Balladur's trip to China designed to patch up a row over French sales of advanced fighter jets to Taiwan.

"We are sure that there is no desire to be provocative towards France," another French source said. "This answer shows that they don't want to put us in a situation which would have been untenable for us."

Mr. Juppe told reporters: "The answer of the Chinese authorities, which is totally clear... allows us to continue this trip in the same climate as it began."

He said the assurance was given by China's Minister of Power Industry, Shi Dazhen, who flew to Shanghai from Beijing with Mr. Balladur, a vice mayor of Shanghai and the Chinese ambassador to France Cai Fangbo.

During his visit to Shanghai Balladur met Chinese and French businessmen, visited a hospital and strolled along the city's famous waterfront bund.

He was scheduled to have dinner with the secretary of the Shanghai Communist Party Wu Bangguo.

On Saturday, a Chinese police spokesman confirmed that veteran Chinese democracy campaigner Xu, detained in Beijing during Mr. Balladur's stay in the capital, was being interrogated for violating the terms of his May 1993 parole after 12 years in prison.

PBS will not
finance sequel to
controversial
drama

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) said it had decided not to co-finance a new television series of Tales of the City, which dealt with gay themes, but denied this was due to conservative pressure.

PBS screened Tales of the City, produced by Britain's Channel 4 television, in January and had been discussing co-financing a six-hour miniseries sequel, More Tales of the City, being planned by Channel 4. But PBS spokesman Harry Forbes said that PBS had decided against co-financing the new series. He said the decision was taken for financial reasons and adamantly denied it was due to conservative pressure.

"Clearly we aired the first one (series), and clearly we knew that those were the themes involved and we had no qualms about airing it," he said. A report in the San Francisco Chronicle Friday quoted Armistead Maupin, the San Francisco-based author of the novels on which the series was based, as accusing PBS of "knuckling under to conservative pressures" by not financing the new series. It quoted him as saying this was especially so since the new series would deal with gay rights and Christian fundamentalist opposition to homosexuality. The first series set in 1970s San Francisco brought PBS its highest ratings for a drama series in several years and won critical acclaim. But it caused some controversy because of nudity and its depiction of homosexual relationships and drug use.

Rev. Donald Wildmon, a vocal critic of liberal themes on television, urged members of his American Family Association to write their members of congress to protest the use of tax dollars for the show. "To imply that we're somehow running scared because of Donald Wildmon is I think fairly ludicrous," Mr. Forbes said. John Grant, PBS senior vice-president of programming said from Washington that PBS had never made a commitment to financing the new series. He said financial considerations and programming priorities were the main reasons PBS had decided not to finance the second series. "We have extremely tight funding," he said.

Clinton mocks opposition efforts on health plan

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (R) — President Bill Clinton has rejected as "a bunch of hokey" opposition efforts to portray his health care reform plan as a government takeover of the U.S. health care system.

Mr. Clinton heatedly took issue with efforts by U.S. insurance companies and supporters of the current system, including some Republicans in Congress, to paint his plan as going too far to fix a problem they contend is not as serious as the president and his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton would lead Americans to believe.

The president spoke at a televised "town hall" meeting at Minneapolis station KSTP and connected by satellite hookup to studio audiences in Detroit, Milwaukee and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The meeting wound up an intense week for Mr. Clinton aimed at generating popular appeal for his reform effort.

Part of his anger appeared directed at insurance companies and people who

featuring characters "Harry and Louise" that have been effective in instilling fear in many Americans that his plan is too interventionist and unnecessary.

"I saw all those ads putting out all that propaganda that this is politics, that it's just a power play and all that," Mr. Clinton said testily.

He said opponents had no right to question his motives while so many struggle when disabled people cannot get insurance. Older Americans choose between buying medicine and food every month. 100,000 people each month lose their insurance and farmers and small business owners pay higher prices for insurance than most people.

"I mean, this is a bunch of hokey. If people don't agree with me, let them come forward and contest me with their ideas," he said.

Mr. Clinton was as fiery-tongued earlier in the day at a campaign-style health care reform rally at which boosters waved signs saying "give me health, Bill." He urged people to pester Congress to do something now about health care before it's too late.

Tell the members of your congressional delegation, without regard to their party, that you want this deal with and you want it now," Mr. Clinton said.

are making a killing from the insurance business that we have today. It is wrong and we should change it," he said to a burst of applause from about 100 people in the studio audience.

In response to someone who asked if his plan was "really a health plan or a power grab," Mr. Clinton insisted he was not trying to place the U.S. system under bureaucratic control.

"I don't plan to take over the health care system. I don't plan to take over the health care system. I don't plan to run it," he said.

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Soccer championship's 20th week characterised by extreme caution

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Only twelve matches remain for the completion of the 1993 first division soccer championship whose title has already been secured for the second consecutive year by Al Faisali.

The 20th week of action was characterised by the extreme caution of most teams trying to avoid defeats. Three matches ended in 1-1 draws with the only surprising result being lowly Sahab's 3-0 win over third placed Al Hussein.

Therefore, the top seven maintained their positions, while the only change was in 8-11 places in the 12 teams' standings.

In one of three matches held Friday, Al Jazireh scored a vital 2-0 win over Al Baqaa to equal Al Ramtha's 21 points and firmly hold on to the seventh position in considerable assurance of avoiding relegation in the case of the last four teams.

Al Jazireh's standing was the result of their strong comeback in the last quarter of the competition, during which they beat Al Qadissieh and Al Ahli and drew with Al Hussein and Al Faisali.

Similarly Al Baqaa surprised onlookers during the second leg in which they drew with Al Ahli and beat Al Hussein and Fuheis. However, their latest defeats may prove to be very costly unless they win their last two matches.

Both Al Jazireh and Al Baqaa played a fast attacking game from the outset of the match at Salt Stadium.

Al Jazireh scored both goals from headers by striker Simon George in the 52nd and 63rd minutes, as Al Baqaa's Khaled Faleh seemed to be having a bad day after two shots hit the post ending the match with a significant win for Al Jazireh.

Meanwhile, Al Ahli and Al Wihdat, both vying for the second place spot, settled for a 1-1 draw at Amman International Stadium.

Both teams, now in second and fourth places, could not possibly contemplate defeat, and therefore played a calculating, serious game in which Al Ahli's goalkeeper Mohammad Abu Daoud and Al Wihdat's rising star Ali Juma kept fans attentive and involved throughout the match. Juma was instrumental in assisting teammate Hisham Abdul Munem score in the 14th minute. However, Al

Wihdat's celebrations could not last long as Imad Fatafah earned a free kick a minute later from which he scored Al Ahli's equaliser.

Al Ahli's striker Amer Wali could not do much in the absence of fellow striker Nart Yadaq who was serving a suspension.

Both Al Ahli's Husam Hamamash and Wali, and Al Wihdat's Ibrahim Sa'diyeh lost some serious scoring chances in the second half.

In Friday's third match, Sahab stunned Al Hussein 3-0 to move to 10th place, while Al Hussein remained in third place.

While being the only team to beat Al Faisali, Al Hussein had also been upset 2-0 by Al Baqaa. Sahab scored all three goals in the first half.

Striker Mohammad Al Ashhab stunned Al Hussein when he netted in the first goal from a free kick in the 11th minute.

Despite Al Hussein's efforts to closely guard their opponents, Sahab took advantage of a loose defence to score their second goal by Ghaleb Raji in the 23rd minute.

Al Ashhab ended his team's scoring spree when he added the third goal in the 40th minute.

Despite the win, Sahab remain in a difficult position and will face Al Faisali in the upcoming week.

Al Qadissieh and Al Ramtha remained in 5th and 6th places after their 1-1 draw at Al Hassan Stadium in Irbid.

Al Qadissieh, who had maintained an unbeaten record throughout the second leg until their loss to Al Jazireh last week, stunned Al Ramtha by a goal from Ra'd Al Momani in the 4th minute.

Khaled Abdul Fattah, Al Qadissieh's veteran goalie, averted all equalising attempts by Al Ramtha during the first half.

Mazen Shahin and Mustafa Adam led Al Qadissieh's attacks, while Al Ramtha could not score and lacked accurate finishing.

Al Ramtha were saved when Mohammad Al Kha'zali equalised from a penalty kick in the 95th minute.

Meanwhile, Al Faisali scored another big win when they beat Al Yarmouk 4-0.

The titleholders were on an all out attack against bottom-of-the-league Yarmouk, as Al Faisali's Jamal Abu Abed, Subhi Suleiman and Mousa Awad insisted on giving teammate Jiryes Tadros all chances to score and secure the title of best scorer.

However, it was Suleiman who scored first in the 39th minute.

Al Yarmouk was able to threaten Al Faisali's goal only twice throughout match, as the Kingdom's soccer champions took total control of the match.

Although Tadros lost two scoring chances at the beginning half, he successfully scored the second and third goals in the 53rd and 63rd minutes to tie with the championship's top scorer Adam of Al Qadissieh with 14 goals.

Al Faisali's final goal came from Joseph Hattar in the 89th minute.

In another match, Fuheis and Arabi were held to a 1-1 draw that did not help both teams much in their struggle to avoid relegation.

Mohammad Alawneh scored first for Al Arabi in the 25th minute as Al Arabi had the chance to score again and secure a win but lacked concentration.

Al Fuheis managed to score their equaliser by Wa'ed Suweis in the 62nd minute.

Both teams have tough matches ahead as Al Fuheis take on Al Ramtha while Al Arabi meet Al Ahli when the 21st week of the competition opens Thursday.

STANDINGS AFTER 20TH WEEK

Team	P	W	D	GD	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Faisali	20	15	2	2	1	45	10	51
Wihdat	20	9	5	2	4	23	18	39
Hussein	20	8	5	2	5	28	20	36
Ahli	20	8	5	1	6	30	21	35
Qadissieh	20	6	6	3	5	30	24	33
Ramtha	20	6	3	1	8	30	26	31
Jazireh	20	5	8	—	7	26	26	31
Arabi	20	5	7	—	8	25	26	29
Baqaa	20	7	2	2	9	18	29	27
Sahab	20	5	3	2	10	22	27	23
Fuheis	20	6	2	1	11	18	33	23
Yarmouk	20	5	—	2	13	19	44	17

Japan, Korea could co-host World Cup

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Bitter soccer rivals Japan and South Korea could wind up as co-hosts for the 2002 World Cup finals, Asian Football Confederation (AFC), General Secretary Peter Velappan said Friday. FIFA President Joao Havelange is giving "serious consideration" to allowing two countries to jointly host the finals for the

first time. Velappan said at AFC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur after returning from a FIFA meeting in Zurich this week.

A task force will be set up to examine the idea after FIFA's June congress in Chicago ahead of the World Cup finals in the United States.

"It will study the financial implications and other issues,"

Velappan said. "This is a proposal that he (Havelange) is giving serious consideration to." Japan and South Korea are waging an increasingly bitter contest to become the first Asian nation to host the finals in 2002. Havelange, who has said he wants to stage the 2002 finals in Asia, earlier this week floated the idea of expanding the finals to 32 teams from the 24.



The jockey of Nick the Brief, T. Byrne, makes for cover as another jockey in the Foxhunters Steeplechase comes crashing over as the Aintree fences take their toll on Friday (AFP photo)

Minnehoma wins Britain's Grand National

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) — Minnehoma, a 16-1 shot ridden by Richard Dunwoody, held off a strong challenge from Just So in the straight to win a trouble-free Grand National steeplechase Saturday.

Only six of the 36 starters finished the gruelling 4½ mile (7.2 kilometre) race at Aintree. The 30 others either fell at the fearsome fences or were pulled up on the abnormally heavy ground.

Moorcroft Boy, the 5-1 favourite, came home third and Ebony Jane, which ran in the Irish Grand National Tuesday, was fourth.

Fiddlers Pike, ridden by 51-year-old Rosemary Henderson, was fifth and last to finish was Roc de Prince.

French-trained The Fellow, which won the Cheltenham Gold Cup last month, fell at the 22nd fence while in contention for the lead.

Going to the last, Minnehoma and Just So were hampered by a riderless horse. Young Hustler, which veered in front of them.

Denver Nuggets tighten grip on playoff spot

LOS ANGELES (R) — Brian Williams and Robert Pack sparked a fourth-quarter rally, helping the Denver Nuggets tighten their grip on the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference with a 112-99 triumph over the Lakers.

The Nuggets, who won their second straight following a four-game losing streak, opened a four-game lead over the revitalized Lakers with nine games to play.

Vlade Divac poured in a career-high 33 points and James Worthy netted 21 off the bench for Los Angeles, which lost for just the fifth time in its last 17 games and fell to 5-2 since Magic Johnson took over as head coach.

At Indiana, Scottie Pippen scored 21 points, including a tie-breaking 3-pointer with 42 seconds remaining, helping the Chicago Bulls rally past the Pacers 100-94.

The Bulls, who ended the game with 12-2 surge, reached the 50-win plateau for the fifth

straight season. Chicago also has won eight straight games at Indiana and has not lost at Market Square Arena since March 16, 1990.

The Bulls, who have won six straight games, moved within one game of Atlanta for the top spot in the central division.

Indiana remained tied with New Jersey for the seventh playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, a full game behind the Miami Heat.

In Charlotte, Alonzo Mourning scored 19 points before joining the other starters on the bench, as the Hornets kept their slim playoff hopes alive with a 99-78 trouncing of the New Jersey Nets.

Larry Johnson added 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets, who moved within 4½ games of New Jersey for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Charlotte has nine games left. New Jersey has eight.

In Sacramento, Mitch Richmond scored 33 points to lead the Kings to a 104-101 win over the Phoenix Suns.

Chang to face Sampras in final of Japan Open

TOKYO (R) — Michael Chang pulled off an impressive victory over Boris Becker Saturday to set up an all-American final against top seed Pete Sampras in the Japan Open men's tennis championship.

Second seed Chang delighted his huge throng of vociferous Japanese fans as he outpaced the third-seeded German 7-6 6-2 in a battle of contrasting styles on the sun-drenched centre court.

World number one Sampras wasted little time and effort blasting aside eleventh seed Henrik Holm of Sweden 6-2 6-1 in a mere 47 minutes.

The defending champion, fresh from victory in the Osaka Salem Open last week, extended his winning streak to 20 matches and is on course for his sixth title of 1994.

"Things are looking really positive. It's been a pretty good run for me these last three to four weeks. I just hope I can continue it until tomorrow's match," Sampras said.

The 22-year old champion of the last three Grand Slams was in devastating form. He pounded in a high percentage of first serves to hold serve easily throughout and returned consistently and aggressively to break Holm twice in each set.

Chang's win was sweet revenge. The stocky Chinese-American had succumbed to the tall Becker's serve-and-volley game in their only previous two meetings.

"Whenever you're able to beat Becker, it's a good win anywhere," Chang said. "Boris has a certain amount of respect from all the players due to the way he presents himself off and on court."

The world number eight served consistently well, but attributed his win to his return of serve which stopped Becker storming to the net and let him dictate points from the baseline.

"Boris was having a tough time holding his serve, which gave me more confidence to go out and swing away," Chang

said. In the third game of the second set, Becker was stretched to seven deuces on his serve and failed to convert seven game points.

"He came up with incredible shots and that game is where the match was decided," Becker said.

"When it's cold the whole game is much slower, and that doesn't favour the serve-and-volleyer."

Chang played a cunning cat-and-mouse game, tempting Becker to the net then lobbing him with uncanny accuracy and frequency.

"When you play the bigger boys, you have to be able to lob and mix it up with passing shots," Chang said.

In Sunday's final, he faces a formidable challenge from Sampras, whom he first played at the age of seven.

"I have no pressure, nothing to lose, so it makes it easier for me to just swing away and give it my all," Chang said.

Navratilova wins in quarters of Amelia Island tournament

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla. (AP) — Martina Navratilova continued her impressive showing in the Bausch Lomb Championships, beating 18-year-old Chanda Rubin in straight sets Friday in the quarterfinals of the \$400,000 clay-court tennis tournament.

Navratilova's 6-3, 6-2 victory sends her into the semifinals against top seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, who dominated No. 10 Sabine Hack 6-1, 6-2 in a night match.

Gabriela Sabatini, the fourth seed, defeated No. 7 Mary Pierce 6-4, 6-3, and No. 6 Lindsay Davenport eliminated No. 2 Conchita Martinez 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 in other quarterfinals at Amelia Island Plantation.

This is the 37-year-old Navratilova's last appearance in a Florida tournament and she is making the most of it after losing the opening match in her previous two events. She has not lost a set in three matches here, yet shrugged off the suggestion that she is hardly been challenged in victories over Rubin, Veronika Martinek and Silke Frankl.

"I just got beat twice in the first round, so don't talk to me about challenges," said Navratilova, a three-time winner at Amelia Island, including her last Florida title in 1988.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm 37. Sometimes I feel like I'm 15," she added. "Sometimes I feel like I'm 80."

Davenport is just 17, and her upset of Martinez, the world's third-ranked player and a clay-court specialist, was one of the biggest of her career. Up 6-4 in the tiebreaker, she squandered two match points before putting Martinez away 8-6 with a backhand down the line.

"It's really exciting to beat her, especially on this surface," Davenport, ranked 13th, said. "She's No. 3 and obviously one of the best clay-court players. I tried to keep her on the run and not let her dictate the points."

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

DATE: APRIL 9, 1994
LOAN NO.: 2841 JO
TENDER NO.: 7/M/94

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (HKJ) has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the National Urban Development Project (UDP3) loan No. 2841 - JORDAN at the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for which this IFB is issued.

2. Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, delivery, full installation and on site successful operation locally and remotely of the following computer systems:

- Application software development of Management Information System (MIS) for the functions of the HUDC, including accounting, personnel management, site development and sales operations, and administration; and
- Commissioning and testing of all application systems and training HUDC staff in the operation and maintenance of the systems.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the tendering division of HUDC, at the following address:

Housing and Urban Development Corporation
Tendering Division, Marks Office
P.O. Box 2110, 227198
Amman, Jordan
Fax no. 962-6-883197
Tel. no. 962-6-899361

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 50 (Fifty Jordanian Dinars).

5. This tender will be a two-stage bidding procedure as follows: The first stage bid will consist of a technical bid only, without any reference to prices, and a list of any deviations to the commercial and contractual conditions set forth in the bidding documents a bidder wishes to take and a justification therefore. The second stage bid will consist of (a) a revised technical bid incorporating all changes required by the purchases to bring the technical bid up to an acceptable level, or necessary to reflect any amendment to the bidding documents issued subsequent to submission of the first stage bid, and (b) the commercial bid.

All first stage technical bids must be delivered to the offices of HUDC not later than 12:00 noon on MAY 28, 1994 and will be opened immediately thereafter in public in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend.

Eng. Yousef Hiasat
Director General

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
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LOSE THE RIGHT TRICK

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A
♥ Q 6 5 3
♦ J 8 3
♣ A K Q J 10

WEST EAST

♠ Q 10 7 4 3 ♠ K 9 6 2
♥ K 10 8 ♥ J 8 4
♦ 4 ♦ Q 9 7 6
♣ 8 6 5 2 ♣ 9 4

SOUTH

♠ J 8 5
♥ A 7 2
♦ A K 10 5 2
♣ 7 3

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

On many hands, success or failure depends on trump control. To illustrate what we mean, here's an object lesson in the art of declarer play.

The bidding is not without interest. South had no good bid on the third round of the auction. While two spades might have been a suit, the main inference that could be drawn from that call was that South

was unable to bid no trump. After cue-bidding to show slam interest, North could not do more than bid five diamonds because there was no guarantee that South held good trumps. With a reasonable suit, South proceeded to slam.

Declarer won the spade lead in dummy and led the jack of diamonds, covered by the queen and king. Since 12 tricks were assured if trumps broke 3-2, declarer drew a second trump. When East showed out, the contract was in grave danger. Declarer ruffed a spade on the table and started to run clubs. Although South could discard a spade when East ruffed the third club, there was no way to get to the board to cash the good clubs. Declarer received a sliver of luck when the king of hearts was outside, so the contract went down only one trick.

Let's go back to trick two, when East covered the jack of diamonds lead from dummy, and see what would happen if South allowed East to hold the trick! When West follows, the contract is virtually assured. Best is for East to shift to a heart. Declarer rises with the ace, ruffs a spade in dummy and then draws trumps and runs clubs. In all, South scores four trumps, a ruff, the major-suit aces and five clubs—12 in all.

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	DEAD AGAIN		AT THE REQUEST OF THE AUDIENCE		CONCORD '1'		Opening Soon		Two more weeks before the performances of the political comedy	
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Ahmad Zaki, Sabreen Adel Adham and Sereen Saiful Nasr		Hook		A political comedy		"Ahlan Arab Summit Conference"	
			THE LADY'S CHAFFEUR (Arabic)		CONCORD '2'		Forbidden x Forbidden		Come to an end	
			Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Demolition Man		Look out for the surprise in the coming play			
					Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30					

مركزنا من الأهل

Security Council retains sanctions against Libya

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council late Friday retained its sanctions against Libya for not turning over suspects in the 1988 Lockerbie air crash over Scotland, saying there was no reason to lift the embargoes.

"The review was conducted and the members of the council were unable to conclude that there was any reason for changing the council regime," the council president, Colin Keating of New Zealand, told reporters.

The council's review takes place every 120 days on the sanctions that include a ban on air traffic.

The embargoes also freeze some financial assets abroad but not revenues derived from oil, Libya's lifeline. Countries are banned from selling equipment for oil refineries and transport to Libya but can sell Tripoli oil drilling equipment.

Britain and the United States have indicated two Libyans, Abdul Baset Ali Mohammed Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, in connection with the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in which 270 people died.

The council in April 1992 began to impose sanctions against Libya for not handing over the two for trial in the United States for Britain.

Libya must also satisfy demands of a French magistrate investigating the mid-flight bombing of France's UTA flight 772 over Niger in 1989 in which 171 people died.

Tripoli recently proposed that Scottish judges go to the Netherlands and try the suspects there. But both Britain and the United States rejected this and Britain gave its reasons to council members at Friday's closed meeting.

Britain's deputy ambassador, Stephen Gomersall, called the proposals "an excuse for further delay in complying with the demands of the Security Council," according to a statement distributed later.

There is no evidence that the Libyan government are genuinely committed to surrendering the suspects," he said.

Mr. Gomersall said that a trial in a third country was impractical "even if it were

possible to find a third country prepared to host such a trial."

He said legislation would be required in Britain as well as the third country. In addition, measures would be needed to assure witnesses attended and to transfer and hold the prisoners, if necessary.

The United States has pressed for the extradition of the Libyan pair to be tried in a U.S. or British court.

The 15-nation council decided informally to continue sanctions. No vote was taken.

Libya lashed out at the West on Saturday for renewing the sanctions, saying Western dominance of the United Nations threatens mankind's future.

A commentary distributed by the official agency JANA said the world is following the United States, Britain and France to "misery, poverty and injustice."

Lamenting U.S., British and French influence particularly over the Security Council, JANA expressed Libya's sorrow "over the loss of the legitimate rights of our nation and all other nations... and peoples."

But the commentary went on: "Sorrow alone is not enough to express the danger threatening all mankind... being led by Western nations to more misery, poverty and injustice. If man cannot rid itself of the Western dominance and persistent aggression, man's future will be in great doubt."

The article was attributed to JANA's international affairs editor. But it is believed that the agency's top commentators on political affairs speak directly for the regime.

In a separate report, JANA said Saturday that China, a permanent Security Council member, and Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, supported an Arab League proposal for the trial of the two suspects at the World Court in the Hague.

As a permanent member, China can veto the sanctions any time they come up for renewal. Its failure even to call for a vote on the issue this time indicated at least tacit support for keeping them in place.

Prince Hassan says education should serve country's goal of industrial growth

GHOR AL SAFI (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday said the educational process should be geared towards serving Jordan's goals in expanding the industrial sector.

Speaking to reporters at the Arab Potash Company at the conclusion of a tour of the Karak Governorate, Prince Hassan called for focusing on vocational and technical education.

He said the educational process will be discussed next August at "the science week," ahead of formulating legislation that would strike a balance between the educational process and society's needs of various professions. This

would support the development process and consequently would curb unemployment among holders of degrees in certain fields, he said.

Prince Hassan said more than 1,000 job opportunities would be created in south Jordan once an investment company, which will run eight projects, is established. In later stages, he said, more jobs would be created by these projects, which will include food processing, plaster, spare parts and tourism industries.

Calling for more planning and more coordination among various institutions and sectors, Prince Hassan urged local councils and government and private institutions to coordi-

nate their works so as to serve the comprehensive development process.

He said studies were under way to establish Al Wala, Al Majib and Al Hassa dams, which once finished, east and south Jordan will have a network of dams that would meet all the area's needs of water.

Prince Hassan started his tour in the southern Jordan Valley area where he visited several farms in the Karak Governorate and was briefed on their demands and needs.

The Crown Prince also attended a meeting of Ghor Al Safi municipal council in the presence of Interior Minister Salameh Hammad, Water and

Litigation Minister Hisham Al Khatib, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ahmad Al Aqaleh, the Karak Governorate representatives at Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Karak Governor Khalaf Al Mahasneh and other officials.

Later, Prince Hassan visited Ghor Al Safi hospital and the Arab Potash Company.

He also visited Mu'ta University, Al Hussein Secondary Vocational School and opened the Karak Municipality Cultural Centre. The JD 1,800,000 centre, which was established over an area of five dunums, will be serving all citizens in the Karak Governorate.

Talbott makes little Indo-Pak headway

ISLAMABAD (R) — U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said he held good talks on Saturday on capping Pakistan's nuclear programme but admitted that much work still remained to be done.

But diplomats said he ran into opposition from both India and Pakistan in this week's initiative in Islamabad and New Delhi to dampen what Washington sees as the possibility of a nuclear war over the neighbours' disputed state of Kashmir.

"I would not say we came here to convince or persuade but to discuss an extremely complicated subject... to cap, reduce and then eliminate weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles from South Asia," Mr. Talbott told a news conference.

"There needs to be a lot more discussion and work on how best to achieve this goal," he said. He had not expected to make swift progress with the initiative that includes a U.S. offer to go ahead with the

delayed sale of F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan if it caps its nuclear arms programme.

"My hope is that we have laid a conceptual basis," he said. "I have just completed a very good day of talks here with the prime minister, president and foreign minister."

He declined to say if Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had opposed the offer in their lunch meeting. Ms. Bhutto said on Thursday Pakistan would never roll back its programme because this would leave Islamabad vulnerable to arch-foe Israel.

"We are not asking for a rollback but are suggesting a verifiable cap," Mr. Talbott said.

Pakistani diplomats had said they would raise a list of about 30 questions in Saturday morning's talks, but said they expected little or no progress from the meetings.

Islamabad maintains it has attained a nuclear capability but says a political decision has been taken not to manufacture

nuclear weapons.

In New Delhi, where Mr. Talbott held three days of talks, a senior Indian diplomat said India opposed the U.S. proposal to supply 38 F-16s to Pakistan, adding that Washington appeared to have a tilt towards Islamabad.

The Clinton administration has proposed the deal on the condition Islamabad limits the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and allows international verification.

Pakistan has paid for most of the 71 fighter jets but none has been delivered since Washington halted all military and new economic aid in 1990, when then-President George Bush failed to certify to Congress that Pakistan did not have a nuclear device.

Foreign office hawks echoed senior military officers, saying there was little chance of Islamabad going for the compromise deal and that Pakistan could purchase similar planes elsewhere — although at a far higher cost.

Mr. Talbott declined to say what would be the fate of the F-16s if Pakistan continued to reject the initiative.

Pakistan has stopped its latest payment, saying the F-16s must be delivered or the money returned.

Ms. Bhutto said on Thursday the stand of Pakistani officials in talks with Mr. Talbott would be to call on the United States to adopt a more even-handed approach and not to link the F-16 sales to Islamabad's nuclear programme.

Pakistan says it is ready to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty if India signs at the same time.

India, which has exploded a nuclear device, denies constructing bombs but believes Pakistan has already done so.

Relations between India and Pakistan have soured further since a rebellion erupted four years ago in the Indian-ruled two-thirds of Kashmir, over which the neighbours have fought two of their three wars.

'No new Mideast after' Israel-PLO agreement

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The declaration of principles signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has not yet ushered in a new "golden era" in the Middle East, as some would like to think, according to a panel of U.S. academic experts.

The panel explored the prospects for an Arab-Israeli peace during Thursday discussion sponsored by The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based public policy research institute.

The panelists included: Robert Satloff, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Daniel Pipes, director of The Middle East Forum; and Peter Rodman, director of Middle East Studies at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Starting at the outset that he is pessimistic about the prospects for peace in the region, Mr. Pipes declared that in his view the "new Middle East has not come into existence," and contrary to conventional wisdom, "is not on a verge of a golden era."

"Severe problems" plague the region, Pipes said — the rise of fundamentalist Islam, declining economies, and the existence of "rogue states" in the region.

On religious fundamentalism, Mr. Pipes said the conflict taking place in Algeria, be-

tween government and Islamic forces is the "key issue" in the Middle East today. "There is a civil war in the making. If the fundamentalists prevail, there is a likelihood of Algeria becoming engaged in Middle East politics along the lines of Iran," Mr. Pipes warned that this would in turn shift "the balance in the whole of the Middle East."

As a result, "the context in which the peace process is taking place is a negative one," Mr. Pipes concluded.

Assessing the current status of the Middle East peace negotiations, Mr. Satloff said there is "a growing sense of dissatisfaction inside Israel."

Israelis, he said, now sense that the agreement with the PLO "is not the peace to end all wars." The enthusiasm for the agreement among the Palestinians, too, is waning, Mr. Satloff said.

In fact, Mr. Satloff argued, the Fateh faction of the PLO has never really actively supported the accord. "There is a strain within Fateh that remains allergic to Oslo," (The PLO-Israel declaration of principles was negotiated during secret talks in Oslo, Norway, and later signed in public, on September 13, 1993).

Fateh, he said, "is apologetic rather than assertive" about championing the accord and

this has "opened up a vacuum in the (occupied) territories and allowed Hamas and other opposition groups inroads on terrorism and political inroads."

Once the Israeli forces withdraw, Mr. Satloff predicted "frenzied chaos" in Gaza and Jericho, and "more Baruch Goldsteins and suicide car bombers," referring to the Jewish settler who killed 29 Muslim worshippers in Hebron in February and the recent car bombing in Afula by an Arab terrorist that left eight Israelis dead.

Noting that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin publicly condemned Baruch Goldstein, while PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat thus far has not condemned those claiming responsibility for the car bombing, Mr. Satloff said that as long as this is the case, "the new Middle East is far away."

Mr. Satloff ironically suggested that Mr. Arafat may actually benefit from "controlled chaos."

Mr. Arafat may fear that a very orderly interim period of self-rule would convince the Israelis to postpone final status negotiations, he said. With "Controlled chaos," Mr. Arafat has more to bargain with and could therefore press for these negotiations sooner rather than later, Mr. Satloff

said. Mr. Rodman said that although he shares in his colleagues' "skeptical spirit," he "is more sanguine about the present agreement" between Israel and the PLO.

Palestinian moderates have proven thus far that they can withstand pressures and threats to the peace process, Mr. Rodman said. Last week's agreement signed by the PLO and Israel in Cairo to put international forces in Hebron supports this thesis, he said.

He stressed that the United States and its friends in the region have an interest in an implementation of the declaration of principles "that works."

"We have a stake in showing that Arafat's commitment to coexistence with Israel has some benefits for the Palestinian people," he said.

What the United States is "hoping to see is most Arabs with us and Israel trying to confront threats coming from different directions," he said.

"Completing the declaration of principles is essential to this... (It) will diffuse the Palestinian issue and... diffuse many of the international pressures on Israel and the United States."

Improving the lives of the Palestinian people will also help "to mitigate some pressures on the moderate Arabs," Mr. Rodman concluded.

Jackson: Violence underlines need for quick peace

AFULA (AP) — Clutching the hands of Israelis wounded in a car-bombing, the Rev. Jesse Jackson uttered a prayer Saturday for their recovery and said the attack underscored a need to quicken Mideast peace efforts.

Mr. Jackson took the two-hour drive to Afula in Northern Galilee, despite the tensions there since Wednesday's attack in which seven Israelis were killed by a Palestinian suicide bomber avenging February's Hebron mosque massacre.

He stayed away from the bus stop in the centre of town where the attack occurred, although organisers said earlier that would be included in the trip. At the site, 15 protesters stood with signs. "Rabin and the government won't cleanse their hands of this blood," they are killing us, where is the government," they read.

Mr. Jackson made the rounds at Haemek Hospital where 10 of those wounded are still being treated for severe burns. He was warmly received.

Nazem Hussein, 60, an Israeli Arab from the town of Nazareth, was moved to tears by Mr. Jackson's appearance at his bedside.

Mr. Jackson and his wife Jackie held hands with Mr. Hussein and relatives. "Bless this brother, heal his body, we pray this his suffering will not be in vain," Mr. Jackson intoned.

"Give us the strength to stop the violence, to stop the terror, to save the people and to live in peace," he said.

Mr. Jackson also said prayers with relatives of Maytal Yona, 12, whose face was covered with bandages.

"Bless this, our child, and let healing visit her," Mr. Jackson prayed. He whispered to her, "I love you," before leaving the room, and told reporters that they would remain "prayer partners" and exchange letters. "My family and my children are going to pray for her," Mr. Jackson said.

Maytal's father Yoel said he was grateful for Mr. Jackson's visit.

Mr. Jackson told reporters that the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation peace agreement signed last September had to be "implemented quickly" to overcome violence threatening to derail it.

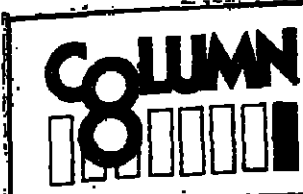
"If it is not implemented quickly then the enemies of peace will gain momentum," he said.

Earlier Saturday Mr. Jackson was critical of Israel for banning a conference marking the PLO's 30th anniversary, saying the measure amounted to giving "a gift to the saboteurs of peace."

"After these 30 years, a new Israeli-PLO equation has been established, one of coexistence rather of co-annihilation, negotiation rather than confrontation," Mr. Jackson said.

Israel objected to it being held in occupied Jerusalem, citing security reasons yet saying it could be convened in the occupied West Bank.

Later Saturday Mr. Jackson was to dine with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.



World Cup concert to reunite top tenors

NEW YORK (R) — Get ready for an encore performance that might set world records for audiences and hoopla. The world's three most famous tenors — Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti — said Friday they were reuniting in their first joint concert in four years to provide operatic fireworks on the eve of the World Cup soccer final. Organisers said they expected a billion people around the world to tune in on either radio or television to the July 16 concert at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, plus millions more to buy the subsequent recording and video. They also vowed to turn the 56,000-seat baseball stadium into a lush neo-classical setting for the concert with plans to build two waterfalls and erect 20 Greek columns as a stage set. Organisers said tickets price from \$15 to \$150 had already sold out but that others were available for between \$300 and \$1,000 each. The Warner Music Group has exclusive TV and radio broadcast rights along with video and recording rights. The World Cup final will follow on July 17 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. Zubin Mehta will conduct the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the concert with a chorus of 60 voices and instead of an intermission there will be a dance tribute to Gene Kelly who will help direct a recreation of the dance sequences from his hit film *An American in Paris*. The last time Carreras, Domingo and Pavarotti got together for a concert, it was at the Baths of Caracalla in Rome on the eve of the Rome World Cup final in 1990.

Student charged with giving away computer programmes

BOSTON (AP) — An MIT student was charged with setting up a computer bulletin board service providing free copies of commercial computer programmes. David Lamachia, 20, a junior at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), was indicted on one felony count of conspiring to commit wire fraud, said U.S. attorney Donald K. Stern. Computer bulletin boards allow users to share information via telephone lines, including the copying of computer programmes, known as software. Mr. Lamachia, an electrical engineering and computer science major from Rockville, MD, used the computer aliases "John Gaunt" and "Grimjack" to operate the bulletin board in November, December and early January, the indictment said. As many as 180 people used the illegal software library over one 16-hour period, copying hundreds of copyrighted programmes, it said. MIT's system is part of the computer network Internet, so users worldwide were able to illegally copy the software, Mr. Stern said. MIT computer specialists discovered the bulletin board in December and notified authorities. Mr. Lamachia's attorney, David Duncan, said the wire fraud statute was never meant to be applied to a computer case. And he said his client should not be held responsible for the activities of other people who may or may not have used his bulletin board to exchange software and other information. "This raises serious first amendment issues," he said. Mr. Duncan said Mr. Lamachia would not comment on the case.

U.S. regrets foreign banning of Schindler's List

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Friday it regrets that some foreign countries are aiming to keep the film *Schindler's List* out of their theatres. "The Department of State regrets efforts by some foreign governments to prevent the showing of the Oscar award-winning Steven Spielberg film on the Nazi holocaust," Schindler's List, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said. "The department believes that this film should be available to people worldwide, and that the most effective way to avoid the recurrence of genocidal tragedy is to ensure that past acts of genocide are never forgotten."

Hebron wall builds Arab-Israeli divide

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (AP) — It did not take long for the new wall separating Arab from Jew to become a forum for hatred in this city, still smoldering from the mosque massacre.

"Death to the Arabs," reads a slogan in Hebrew sprayed on the two-metre-high wall slicing through the heart of the old city.

"Let's turn Hebron into a Jewish city," reads another, signed by the outlawed Jewish extremist group Kach.

"Blood for blood," counters nearby graffiti signed by Hamas. The message paraded the car-bomb attack Wednesday that killed eight in the Israeli town of Afula as "the beginning of the revenge of the Hebron mosque massacre."

The army put up the concrete blocks as a security measure for two Jewish enclaves housing some of the 450 Jewish settlers who live in the middle of Hebron's 110,000 Palestinians.

But some settlers would rather not have the extra protection.

"It makes me feel like I live in a ghetto," said settler Anat Levy, 30, who has lived in Hebron for 12 years. "The wall shows the weakness of the army, and I would prefer them to take it down."

A Jewish settler shot and killed more than 30 Muslim worshippers at the Ibrahim Mosque on Feb. 25. Some Palestinians say wall or no wall, hatred between Arabs and Jews will grow as long as the settlers stay, protected in their six enclaves by hundreds of soldiers altering the daily pattern of life for the Arabs.

"Coexistence between Jews and Muslims was prosperous under the Turkish rule, but it is now impossible, even with a peace agreement between Israel and the PLO," said Mustafa Natche, the new Palestinian mayor. "The settlers are extremists and oppose the peace agreement."

The army erected the 100-metre-long wall, made of concrete slabs, two weeks ago to improve protection for two set-

tler enclaves, Beit Hadassah and Avraham Avinu.

The wall and army roadblocks ringing the Jewish compounds cut downtown Hebron in half. Palestinians are barred from passing through the area, and have to take detours of several kilometres through the outskirts to travel between the northern and southern parts of the city.

The army has closed 750 shops in the area as well as the central vegetable market, which did \$35,000 a day in business before the massacre.

Mohammad Hourani, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream Fateh faction in Hebron, said the restrictions were oppressive and further undermined the standing of Fateh and other groups backing negotiations with Israel.

"We want genuine changes on the ground, among them the evacuation of the settlers from the heart of the town. Only this will bring life back to normal," he said.

Mr. Hourani's chief rival in the town, Hamas leader Adnan Maswadeh, agreed. "The wall will not mollify the friction between us and them," he said.

"The wall with its slogans clearly expresses the settlers' wishful thinking in transferring the Arabs out of the town or killing them," said Mr. Maswadeh.

Under an Israel-PLO arrangement, 160 observers from Norway, Denmark and Italy are to be deployed in Hebron soon to help defuse the tension.

But many Hebron residents said the deployment of the observers was too little, too late. The foreigners will have pistols for self-defence and are to report any violations to an Israeli-PLO liaison committee, but have no right to break up hostilities.

"The Palestinian leaders have lost their credibility because they did not succeed in removing the settlers out of the city," said Jihad Shabaneh, who had worked as an accountant for the vegetable market.

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Police radios crackled with a flurry of reports about suspicious objects and bomb scares after attacks by Palestinians left eight Israelis dead this week.

One woman asked police to check out a cake she received unexpectedly, saying it was not her birthday.

It was a measure of the daily tension in Israel despite peacemaking with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Bloodshed and worry are taking a toll on support for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's moves towards peace.

Israelis are faced with everyday choices in which security is the key component: Is it too risky to go to the countryside for a holiday picnic or shop in a mall that could be a bomb target?

The Hamas group fuelled such fears this week, issuing a leaflet threatening attacks on Israel's "independence day," on Thursday, for the Feb. 25 mosque massacre of more than 30 Muslims by a Jewish

settler. The attack took place just before the Eid Al Fitr feast that ends the Holy Month of Ramadan.

"You turned the Eid Al Fitr holiday into a black day, so we vow to turn your independence day into hell," said the leaflet.

The leaflet was distributed after a Hamas car-bomb at a bus stop killed seven Israelis and wounded 40, and a Gazan sprayed a bus stop with gunfire, killing an Israeli soldier and wounding four other Israelis.

In response, the Israeli right demanded suspension of the peace talks. Its call gained support after PLO leader Yasser Arafat refused to condemn the latest attacks.

But the government decided to press ahead with talks with the PLO on Sunday in Cairo, although the pace of withdrawal may go slower and Palestinians will pay a price economically.

"I am fully aware that less people are enthusiastic about the peace process but that is not a reason to stop it," said Ephraim Sneh, a parliament

member of Mr. Rabin's Labour Party. "What is the option, to surrender to terrorism? Will there be less killings if the process stops?"

Columnist Nahum Barnea of the daily Yedioth Ahronot criticised Mr. Rabin's government for failing to campaign in the streets for the peace agreement.

"We can perhaps tell these people that it is better to have a little terror with hope for peace than a little terror without any hope, but there is no one saying it," Mr. Barnea wrote.

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But if Rabin is not going to the people, the people are getting at him.

The government representative at the funeral for the victims of the car-bomb attack in Afula left under police escort after being cursed and shouted down when he tried to deliver a eulogy.

Earlier this month, eggs and tomatoes were flung at members of the cabinet who attended the Maimouna, a

spring festival celebrated by North African Jews earlier this week. Mr. Rabin himself was booed at a rally.

The extent of Israeli concern about violence was reflected in a survey by Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies. The poll of 1,239 Israelis conducted from mid-January to mid-February found 76 per cent expressed concern that they or family members would be hurt in an attack.

"Clearly, there has been a breakdown in security," Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition Likud Party, said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Mr. Netanyahu predicted Mr. Rabin would meet more resistance as Israelis realise Mr. Arafat "is not negotiating over peace but the creation of a Palestinian state which they consider the first phase in a plan to destroy Israel."

The government's response to the latest attacks has been to order an indefinite closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring

Palestinian workers and their vehicles from entering Israel.

More than 60,000 Palestinians normally come to jobs in Israel daily, but the government was expected to approve plans to bring in about 20,000 construction and agricultural workers from Thailand and Romania.

"The Palestinians have to know that there is an economic price to pay for attacks, and we in Israel must know that we got by without them and can get by without them today," Police Minister Moshe Shahal said on Israel Radio.

The April 13 target date for completing withdrawal is unlikely to be reached. But withdrawal is too far along in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho to hold up implementation of the first phase of the Israel-PLO accord.

Still, more attacks like the Afula car-bombing could make Israel less willing to see self-rule extended to other areas of the West Bank and harden Mr. Rabin's position in future negotiations on the final status of Jewish settlers.